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THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER

WITH ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

No. 8.] LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861. [Vol. 1.

THE DIABOLICAL TRADE OUTRAGE AT SHEFFIELD ON SATURDAY LAST.

Topics of the Week.

It is indeed painful to have to record another of those outrages for which Sheffield has become only too notorious. The working classes should themselves take up this matter vigorously. It is they who are disgraced by it, they who are injured by it, and it is they alone who can create the sort of public opinion against such atrocities that will reach the offenders, and teach them what cowardly malignants they are who thus injure the good name and character of the industrial population of the country. Look to the use made of this new crime. "Diabolical Outrage by Trades Unionists!" that is the heading one meets with everywhere in the press as introductory to the account of the transaction. Of course, the middle and higher classes do not as a rule stop to weigh the accuracy of the words or the justice of the imputation. Blowing up a poor woman with an infernal machine, and trades unions—these are the two facts that live in the memory when all else are forgotten. Do the working classes deserve this? Are their trades unions made use of for any such diabolical purposes? Let any doubter read the report that was issued a year or so ago by the Social Science Association—a report that was signed by men of the highest standing, and including some of the largest manufacturers, Mr. E. Akroyd for instance, the Whig millionaire of Halifax. That report completely acquits the great body of the unionists of this country of any sort of participation, actual or implied, in the evil doings charged against them, and it treats with deserved respect the institution itself, against which certain writers take every opportunity to cast a stone. Probably when the affair at Sheffield has been thoroughly investigated it will be found that it is only the merest fraction of the population even of that turbulent city which is tainted by such unmanly practices, and that the question of trades unions has really nothing whatever to do with the subject, beyond the fact that certain men do such things, and are unionists, just as certain other men are unctuous "Christians" until found guilty of robbing the poor, and yet others, capitalists, enjoying the most enviable social position until convicted of gigantic frauds. We ought by this time to have got beyond the practice of such miserable artifices. If any one thinks Christianity bad, or capital bad, or trades unions bad, he is at liberty to say so, if he will only treat sacred things with respect, and treat secular things so as not wantonly to set class against class. But to attack cherished beliefs, valued institutions, or influential classes of society by sidewinds—to hint an accusation that you have not the courage to make boldly and be responsible for—this is the kind of weapon that breeds so much bad blood among us, and raises, in the words of the old dramatist, a "thick scurf" of strifes and jealousies over our social life. But working men should treat all such attacks with dignity. Let them show their abhorrence of the Sheffield deeds by some indignant and manly protest, and by promoting in every possible way the discovery of the would-be assassins. They will then soon live down all calumny about "Trades Unions," and reduce their enemies to an enforced silence which will be a sufficient punishment.

But this incident at Sheffield reminds us of its connection with another event of the day—the late Reform meeting at Leeds. We all know now why so many Liberals in Parliament have been lukewarm in their advocacy of a suffrage that shall enfranchise even a few hundred thousands of our labouring population;—it is the same bugbear, the trades unions. Now, what is it that is feared, supposing that a new Reform Bill gave even fifty members out of 656 to the new constituency? and that of these fifty half were actual working men, unionists, and with George Potter at their head as their "guide, philosopher, and friend"? Do the country gentlemen of England, or the capitalists of England, or the manufacturers of England, dread the effect that might be produced by these handful of hard-fisted men telling their plain, unvarnished tale to the House of Commons and the country, whether that tale might relate to the condition of the people, the relations of capital and labour, or the use of trades unions? It is impossible to come to any such preposterous conclusion. What, then, do they dread? We cannot say. And as for themselves, they will not speak. Some mysterious, indefinable spectre is raised to frighten the political isle from its propriety, and it is called Trades Unions; but when you interrogate the spectre it is silent; when you try to grapple with it it is gone. Certainly the upper classes will have to give their reasons a little more explicitly if they expect them to have any weight with the great bulk of the English people. The time is come that they have been so often warned about. They were begged to give an instalment of power to the people while they were in a calm, satisfied mood, and when they would necessarily be disposed to feel grateful for kindnesses conferred. Their only reply was, "Look at the apathy of the people. They don't want it. We cannot exert ourselves uselessly in their behalf. They won't value what they don't struggle to obtain. Let us alone. We are tired of the subject. Don't you see Reform is out of season?"

Well, we have waited, and, now that the people are beginning to move, how are they welcomed by the very same parties? Why, by a ludicrous scream of terror and indignation that such base advantage should be taken of the difficulties of the time. Really, gentlemen, this is too good. Like the drummer flogging the dissatisfied soldier, we cannot please you strike how we will, and therefore must even pursue our own way, or rather yours, for it is you who have consciously postponed the work of political amelioration to the present time of trouble and possible suffering. We hail, then, the Leeds meeting with a lively gratification, and hope it will be succeeded by other meetings of the same kind. But why do the working men crave for so many patrons belonging to other classes? As an instinct or feeling we think the act is truly praiseworthy. It shows they do not want to be a separate and exclusive class, seeking only to attack other classes. But, then, they should note the signs of the time, which demand that the working men shall say plainly for themselves that they do want to come inside the pale of the Constitution. If they won't do this the actual possessors of power will turn away—also to do nothing—in secret thankfulness. If they will do it, then it is equally clear that all parties are prepared to accept the fact as decisive; or, in other words, while all parties are committed to the support of a new Reform Bill, there is not one of them, however secretly hostile, that is prepared to take up and to maintain an attitude of clear political hostility.

The only other topic of the week that we need here refer to is the brilliant success of the Federal expedition. The Confederates will now begin to understand their true state. It is a trying one for them. By their skill, courage, and audacity, as well as by their long, secret preparations beforehand, they have managed to set on foot an army, or rather a series of armies, that have everywhere stopped all important advances from the Free States. Let them have every credit for their success in this way, and for their avoidance of all illusions: they knew there would be a great war, and acted accordingly. But how will it be with them now—now that the natural resources of the North come out day by day in all their imposing supremacy; armies ever increasing in number, and already amounting to nearly 600,000; navies swelling at the same rapid rate, with no Confederate navy to oppose them; finances ever-abundant, and promising to remain so even for years to come under the existing stupendous outlay, while the Confederate Government and the Confederate slaveowners are exchanging significant cries of financial distress? And, above all, how will they bear themselves under these naval expeditions now that the initiatory blow struck at Cape Hatteras upon Southern soil has been followed by a far more tremendous one at Port Royal and Beaufort, in close proximity to the great cities of Savannah and Charleston? The latter city may well dread impending fate. It was there that this most wicked and unnatural war may be almost said to have originated. We often hear the question put, "Well, but supposing the North overpowers the South, what is the use, seeing that they cannot possibly keep ten millions of people—and such people—in subjection?" Now, just let us analyse this and see what it amounts to. The ten millions which are cunningly or unthinkingly placed in opposition to the eighteen millions mean really six millions of whites and four millions of slaves. Is it not wonderful that any one can overlook the obvious deductions from such palpable facts? We will say nothing of the Union-loving whites, who are said to be very numerous among the six millions; and then the original question comes to this:—How can eighteen millions conquer six millions, the said six millions having four other millions of domestic enemies waiting and yearning to strike a blow for their freedom? This is the true—the only—question that can be logically put; but we do not fancy the advocates of the Slave-owning Confederacy will be inclined to press it, if they must do it, in the terms stated. Perhaps there are some few persons who yet dream of a state of contentment among the slaves that precludes any danger to their masters arising from the war. Let such persons read the following passage from Mr. Russell's latest letter, and they will be disenchanted. This was written while he was waiting news of the result of the expedition and in the belief that the latter was about to fail:—"Unless the Confederates obtain a signal success at Beaufort, and force the Federalists into the sea, it is plain that they have been placed in a hazardous position. The end of the wedge will have been driven into 'the peculiar institution' in its softest place. In those sea islands live vast populations of ignorant negroes, subject to the scanty and scattered whites, most of whom must be called away from their homes and plantations to form the home guard and local militia. It will be impossible, if they really desire to escape, to prevent them flocking to the Federal fleet and camp, and coercion [of the slaves] may precipitate the country into the horrors of servile insurrection. Of the 40,000 inhabitants in Beaufort county 34,000 are slaves! There cannot be more than 1200 white men capable of bearing arms, of whom probably one-half are away in the Confederate ranks, leaving few, indeed, to look after the plantations and the blacks. If the Confederates can inclose their enemies with a living wall they may prevent the fearful calamities which impend over them; but the alarm and apprehension which must prevail all all over the county and in the large towns cannot fail to add new horrors to war, and to fill every heart with fear almost as bitter and dreadful as death itself." And it is precisely because Mr. Lincoln's Government is constantly striving to save the Confederates from the ruin that probably awaits them as the natural consequence of their own acts that we judge the former so severely, and cry out without further consideration—why do they not proclaim abolition?—quite forgetting that they have no right to do anything of the kind, unless the nation at large—Democrats as well as Republicans—should rise to the height of the opportunity, and say, "The rebellion has released us from all merely legal obligations to countenance slavery; we will now destroy it." Then, indeed, the Government would be criminal if they did not act. But matters will not come to such a position. Either the Confederates will be beaten, and submit in order to retain their slaves, and in that case the institution will die out gradually, because no longer permitted to expand, or they will prolong the contest till the wearied North calls forth the slaves *en masse*, and then there will no longer be a South, in the present sense of the word—so sweeping and terrible will be the convulsion, so full of revolution as affecting the ownership of the land will be the elements of any future settlement.

FEARFUL OUTRAGE IN SHEFFIELD.

A diabolical outrage was committed in Sheffield about one o'clock on Saturday morning. A fender-grinder, named George Westnedge, who lives in Acorn-street, Shalesmoor, retired to rest with his wife and child; and Mrs. O'Rourke, a widow, who lodges with them, also retired to her chamber about the usual time. The house in which they reside is three stories high. The ground floor is used as a kitchen, the room above that is occupied as Mrs. O'Rourke's sleeping-chamber, and Westnedge, his wife, and child, sleep in the top story. About the time stated, Westnedge, his wife, and lodger, were alarmed by a crash which took place in Mrs. O'Rourke's chamber. So loud was the noise that the neighbours were also aroused. The noise was occasioned by something which had been thrown with great violence through Mrs. O'Rourke's chamber window, and, as soon as the temporary fright occasioned by the noise had subsided, Mrs. O'Rourke and Mrs. Westnedge jumped out of bed to ascertain the cause of the alarm. Mrs. O'Rourke found a tin can on the room floor and picked it up, not noticing anything particular about it. At that moment Mrs. Westnedge went down stairs to see what had caused the crash, and on seeing her Mrs. O'Rourke put the tin can which she had just picked up into her hand. That instant it exploded, making a terrific noise, and setting fire to the nightdresses of the women, and to other things which were lying about. So violent was the force of the explosion that the floor and ceiling were considerably damaged, and a beam which runs across the ceiling was split to a considerable extent. As will readily be imagined, an explosion so severe could not have taken place without seriously injuring the women. Mrs. Westnedge was dreadfully burned and disfigured about the face, and sustained injuries on other parts of her person, and Mrs. O'Rourke also sustained severe injuries. Before assistance could be afforded Mrs. Westnedge sprang through the garret window, and fell heavily on the flags below. The things in the room being then on fire, Mrs. O'Rourke ran into the lower part of the house, where she was afterwards found suffering great agony, and Westnedge determined to escape with his child by the window through which a minute before his wife had sprung. The ladder which had been brought from the brewery only reached to the second-floor window, and on to this Westnedge dropped, with the child in his arms. He injured his legs considerably, and, a cab having been procured, they were all

removed to the General Infirmary. The fire was then speedily extinguished by the neighbours. The window of the room in which the explosion occurred was blown out, but for a long time after the extinction of the fire a strong smell of exploded gunpowder prevailed. On an investigation of the house afterwards, it was found that the walls were bespattered with blood, and the tin can which had exploded was discovered shattered into several pieces. It appeared to have been tightly charged with some combustible, and to have had a fuse attached to it. The injured persons were attended at the infirmary with great promptitude by Mr. Knight and Mr. Hall, who rendered every assistance in their power. Mrs. Westnedge's injuries are, of course, the most serious, and in all probability they will prove fatal. The guilty parties are as yet unknown; but it appears that at the extensive fender and stove-grate works, at Green-lane, of Alderman H. E. Hoole, ex-Mayor of Sheffield, there have for a long time been disagreements between the men employed in grinding fenders and their employer in consequence of disputes on the question of wages. The men have gone out on strike, and their places have been partially supplied by others. Against these, as a matter of course, the most deadly enmity and malevolent ferocity have been displayed by the turnouts. One of them is Westnedge, who has been particularly singled out for annoyance and insult; but, as he has persevered in going to work, cajolery and personal violence have alike been unsuccessfully resorted to; and, their authors being disappointed, there is too much reason to fear that they have resorted to an outrage scarcely paralleled in ferocity, and which, unhappily, is of a character peculiar to Sheffield.

Since the above was written we learn that a fender-grinder, named Joseph Thompson was suspected, and his apprehension skilfully effected by Mr. John Jackson, the chief constable, aided by several detective officers, who after a long search discovered the prisoner's house and apprehended him in bed. In the house they found a tin bottle filled with powder, and plugged up as though for the purpose of another outrage, a pistol, a box containing caps, a thick stick weighted at one end, and an old coat. A certificate has been received from Mr. Knight, the house surgeon at the Sheffield infirmary, stating that Mrs. Westnedge, the principal sufferer, was much worse, and would probably not long survive. Mr. V. Corbett, magistrate, at once proceeded to the Infirmary, accompanied by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Thorpe, and the deposition of the poor woman was taken. The prisoner was present, as also Mr. Broadbent, his attorney. For prudential reasons the examination was taken privately. The prisoner displayed great indifference as to the dreadful crime with which he is charged, and showed no concern with regard to the sufferings of Mrs. Westnedge, who was evidently in the greatest agony. He was remanded.

THE INSOLVENT BANK OF DEPOSIT.—The report relative to the Bank of Deposit discloses an amount of recklessness, if not of fraud, not even surpassed by anything in the delinquency of the British Bank. The balance-sheet, giving an approximate statement of affairs, shows a deficiency of £309,549. The assets, according to the most liberal estimate, will not exceed £55,086; and, in order to pay the miserable dividend of 3s. in the pound, a sum of £54,742 will be required. When the expenses of litigation and the cost of the winding-up are defrayed, the unfortunate creditors will be fortunate indeed if they get 2s. in the pound. The sum due to sundry depositors, holders of investment stock certificates, amounts to £362,597. The association has to meet these claims with the pitiful sum of £58 at its bankers; while the debts due are estimated to realise but £37,402, and about £17,000 may probably be obtained by realising certain securities and by the sale of proprrty. And, in the face of this hopeless insolvency, the managers have for months past had the audacity to ask the public to intrust them with their moneys, holding out the tempting bait of 5 per cent to credulous depositors.

THE CHAMPION OF A PRINCIPLE.—The Mayor of Folkestone's annual dinner took place the other day at the Townhall. One incident calling for notice occurred during the evening. The Rev. M. Woodward and the Rev. D. Jones sat together on the Mayor's right. By the request of his Worship, the Rev. Mr. Woodward said grace before dinner, and the Rev. D. Jones, also by request, said grace after dinner. When the first toast had been drunk Mr. Woodward rose from the table, and, communicating with the two curates present, left the room, his curates following his example after the next toast. This attracted no attention at the time, and was not understood even when no clergyman could be found to respond to the third toast, which was appropriated to the cloth. The Mayor, however, was soon informed of the cause of the retirement of the clerical body by a note from the Rev. Mr. Woodward, expressing his regret that, in consequence of his Worship having called upon a Dissenting minister to say grace, thus departing from the usage on such occasions, he, as a clergyman of the Established Church, had been unable to remain at the table. He had no personal feeling in the matter, but he was unable to concede a principle.

A NEW RECOGNITION FOR ITALY.—The "Almanach de Gotha" for 1862 gives to Victor Emmanuel the title of King of Italy.

AS DAYLIGHT can be seen through very small holes, so little things will illustrate a person's character. Indeed, character consists in little acts, honourably performed; daily life being the quarry from which we build it up, and rough-hewn the habits that form it.

Home News.

THE COURT is still at Windsor. In the early part of the week the Prince Consort visited the Prince of Wales, at Madingley Hall, Cambridge.

CITY OF LONDON COLLEGE.—On the 21st inst. the Very Rev. R. C. Trench, D.D., Dean of Westminster, delivered an instructive lecture on "The English Language as it would have been but for the Battle of Hastings." The body and galleries of the large hall were crowded. Mr. R. W. Crawford, M.P., presided. In opening his lecture the Dean drew a graphic picture of the struggle for supremacy which was maintained for three centuries between the Saxon and the Norman tongues, the former at last winning the victory. This did not, however, prevent the admixture of an immense number of Romanic words, without which we could not possibly do at the present day; so that the very interesting question arose, "How, in the absence of these words, would their place have been supplied?" To illustrate this part of the subject the learned lecturer brought forward a number of cases in which words of purely Saxon origin might have been used had not the Romanic equivalents rendered their employment unnecessary—as, for example, "sand-waste," for desert; "blood-bath," for massacre; "sin-flood," for deluge; "sea-robber," for pirate; "water-fright," for hydrophobia; "show-holiness," for hypocrisy; "gold-hoard," for treasure; "well-willingness," for benevolence; "undeadliness," for immortality; "untellable," for ineffable; "great-doingly," for magnificently; "sour-dough," for leaven; "uncunningness," for ignorance; "eye-bite," for fascinate; "umgripe," for embrace; "ear-shrift," for auricular confession; "dipper," for baptist, &c.

MR. LAYARD, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, addressed a crowded meeting of his constituents on Thursday week. The hon. gentleman delivered a lengthened address, in which he remarked that the people were alone to blame for the present position of the Reform question. He also vindicated his own acceptance of office, and defended the foreign policy of the Government. A vote of confidence was passed.

EDUCATION FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.—A public meeting was held in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, on the 22nd inst., to promote the establishment of cheap self-supporting boarding-schools for the middle classes in connection with St. Nicolas College, Lancing, in Sussex. It should be stated that St. Nicolas College was founded in 1848, with the special object of improving middle-class education. Besides large buildings at Lancing, on a property of 230 acres, as the head-quarters of the society, with a grammar-school for the sons of gentlemen, the college has in operation a college at Hurstpierpoint, in Sussex, for training middle schoolmasters; a public boarding-school in the same building for the upper class of tradesmen, farmers, clerks, &c., at a payment varying, according to circumstances, from £20 to £30 a year, containing more than 250 boys, who are taught by seven clergymen and graduates of the Universities, with six other trained masters; and a cheaper boarding-school at Shoreham, for the sons of small shopkeepers and artisans, at which the payment for board and education is but 13 guineas a year. This is carried on for the most part in houses hired by the parents of the boys, 230 of whom are already admitted, and no more houses can be hired. This disadvantage it is now sought to remedy by the erection of premises to accommodate 1000 boys, with an adequate staff of masters, on a site near Balcombe, Sussex. The scheme which the meeting of yesterday week was designed to further owes its origin to the Rev. N. Woodard, of New Shoreham, who is now Provost of St. Nicolas College; and it may be in the recollection of our readers that a large and influential public meeting, at which Lord Brougham presided, was held in St. James's Hall, London, several months ago, to promote a more extended adoption of this system of education. The resolutions in favour of the project, which were unanimously agreed to, were severally moved by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone (Chancellor of the Exchequer), and the Bishops of Chichester and Oxford.

EXTENSIVE STRIKE OF COLLIERS IN LANCASHIRE. At most of the collieries in the Oldham, Ashton, and Middleton districts the men have received notice of a reduction of 2d. in the 1s. upon engine coal. Notice of this reduction having in some cases been given a fortnight since, the men have left their work, and already there are above 1000 men on strike in the above districts. It is, however, expected that this number will be greatly increased, when the notice expires at several extensive collieries; and, should the employers adhere to their resolution to reduce the wages of the men, there will, in all probability, be upwards of 2000 colliers on strike.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN GLASGOW.—Trade in Glasgow is at present very dull; no fewer than from 6000 to 7000 able-bodied men being out of work there. The misery consequent thereupon is very great, because under the Scottish poor law the able-bodied poor have no claim upon the parochial authorities. A large number of the unemployed have sent a deputation to the Lord Provost, and the answer they have is to the effect that work or food will be provided for them by Monday.

THE BURIAL OF MR. THOMAS DUNCOMBE took place at Kensal-green Cemetery on Thursday, the 21st inst. The funeral was strictly private, but about a hundred of the principal local celebrities attended uninvited to see the last of "Tom Duncombe."

RAILWAY REFORMS.—In pursuance of the suggestion made by Mr. Forbes, the manager, the trains of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway have been provided with carriages for the special accommodation of ladies. First and second class carriages are also attached to the trains for the exclusive use of smokers.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The polling at Carlisle took place on Tuesday, and resulted in the return of Mr. Potter, the Liberal candidate, by a majority of three. For the Conservative, Mr. Hodgson, there were 523 votes. Mr. Sleigh, Q.C., has issued an address to the electors of Finsbury in the Liberal interest. Mr. Remington Mills and Mr. Lusk have also been mentioned as candidates on the same side.

ANOTHER IRON-CASED FRIGATE, the Black Prince, has been added to the British Navy. She is not quite in fighting trim yet, but she has satisfactorily made her trial in Stokes Bay, Portsmouth. The Black Prince is as nearly as possible of the same dimensions as the Warrior, and it is confidently expected that she will be as good, if not, indeed, slightly superior, to that magnificent ship.

STRANGE ADVENTURE OF A YOUNG LADY.—During one of the recent stormy nights a young lady residing in the vicinity of York left her home under the following strange circumstances:—The family retired to rest as usual, and in the morning the daughter in question was missing and could not be found. It subsequently appeared that she had got up and left the house in nothing but her nightdress, and in that state had travelled on foot about four or five miles towards York. Next day she was found by some men lying under a hedge, and partly covered with grass and leaves. She received what attention was then possible, and was carried to the nearest farmhouse, where she was placed in blankets, and other remedial measures were adopted. After a lapse of some time she was able to speak again, when her name and address were discovered, and she was returned to her friends. The young lady is said to be a somnambulist.

THE CADETS AT WOOLWICH.—The decision of the Horse Guards on the insubordination shown by the Woolwich military cadets was promulgated yesterday week. The Commander-in-Chief pronounces the general conduct nor of the complaints made by the cadets to be frivolous, their conduct in seeking redress ungentlemanly; and the punishment assigned is the rustication of two of the leaders for a year and of eight others for six months.

RESIGNATION OF MR. JUSTICE HILL.—Owing to the impaired state of his health, this distinguised Judge has deemed it expedient to resign his seat in the Court of Queen's Bench.

CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND.—Some time ago, says the *Banner of Ulster*, a gentleman delivered a series of lectures in Belfast on the co-operative system. He laid before his audience a statement of its workings at Rochdale and Leeds, and so impressed them with ideas in its favour that a similar association has been formed in Belfast, and registered under the provisions of the "Industrial and Provident Societies Act" (15 and 16 Vic., cap. 31); and, although but a short time in existence, it has on its rolls considerably more than 150 members. The price of shares has been fixed at £1 each, payable in instalments so low as 3d. per week. This society have opened a shop, where provisions of all descriptions are sold. Interest is paid to the shareholders at the rate of £5 per cent, and the dividend of profits regulated according to the amount of goods purchased. As there is no credit given, the company can make no bad debts.

MALTON MARTINMAS FAIR.—The annual "statute fair," for the hiring of farm servants, was held last Saturday, and was very largely attended. The forward state of farm work, favoured by the beautiful autumn, has had the effect of lowering wages fully 20 per cent. The older men were very slowly hired. Farmers, however, hire shepherds more readily, the result of the immense turnip crop, and the consequent large folding of sheep. On the whole, it is feared much distress will be found among the unhired labourers during the winter, the "statutes" held in neighbouring towns being equally dull.

LOSS OF THE STEAM-SHIP NORTH BRITON.—The North Briton, which left Quebec for Liverpool on the 2nd inst., was wrecked on Paroquette Island, coast of Labrador, on the 5th. At the time of the disaster it was blowing half a gale of wind, with thick rain, and a considerable sea. All the crew and passengers were brought home by the Anglo-Saxon, except seventeen of the former and two or three of the latter, who got adrift in two boats. However, there is reason to believe that these were afterwards picked up by a schooner which was seen by the Anglo-Saxon off Metis. The captain and the second, third, and fourth officers of the North Briton remained behind.

LOSS OF THE SHIP BRITISH FLAG.—A despatch was received in Liverpool from Queenstown on Thursday week announcing the arrival there of the ship Ernst, having on board the captain and crew of the Liverpool ship British Flag, Captain Campbell, bound from Liverpool to Bombay, with a large and valuable general cargo. The British Flag was a fine first-class ship of 1395 tons burden, belonging to Messrs. Bates, Stenhouse, and Co., of Liverpool. She left that port on the 6th of the present month, and must have been lost in the recent heavy gales, for on the 13th inst. she was dismasted in lat. 45 N., long. 11 W., and shortly afterwards abandoned by the crew.

THE GOLD-FIELDS IN NEW ZEALAND.

It is remarkable that, just at the moment a fresh policy is being inaugurated in New Zealand—that of peace, based on justice to the natives—there should be made a discovery which turns the thoughts of all parties, natives as well as Europeans, into a new direction—namely, towards the gold-fields. We knew before that this colony was one of the most favoured spots in creation in its climate, soil, productions, and, above all, in its indigenous human inhabitants; and now gold is added to all the other facts that attest how bountifully the hand of Providence has dealt with this beautiful country. It has been long known that gold exists in New Zealand, but until lately it was believed attainable in paying quantities. Gold was found years ago at Coromandel harbour, in the north; but, although it was trumpeted as the "New Zealand gold-fields," it was soon abandoned as not yielding common wages. Then came the discovery of gold at Massacre Bay, in the province of Nelson. There the diggers have continued to work, but they were few in number, and their success was at no time such as to tempt the diggers from our richer fields. About two years ago Professor Hofstetter, who travelled in New Zealand, expressed his opinion on his return to Melbourne, on his way to Europe, that geologically New Zealand presented all the features of a country rich in gold. Within the last three months discovery has followed discovery in rapid succession, and the gold-fields of Otago, New Zealand, are now an acknowledged fact. They are found at Tuapeka, in the province of Otago, about thirty miles from Tokomairiro. A very interesting letter has been published by Mr. Gillies, a member of the Provincial Council, describing a visit to Tuapeka towards the end of June. He says the gold is found in some places lying on the flat surface of the blue slate-rock, and in one rich claim it lay sprinkled about like oats sown in a field. In others, and more generally, it is found in ledges of the rock and deposited in the hollows, where the ledge or hollow crosses what has formerly been the course of the stream. In some places it is imbedded in the blue slate-rock several inches, and it is to be found in the quartz. The gold is doubtless to be found distributed over the whole valley in paying quantities. From careful inquiries of at least one hundred persons who had been longest at work he was convinced that their average earnings had been over two ounces per man per day, and that the average earnings of all who had been at work with proper appliances would be at least an ounce a day. One party averaged four ounces sixteen pennyweights per man per day. In one day a party of seven took thirty-eight ounces for their day's work, and other remarkable finds had been made, such as from three-quarters to an ounce of gold to a tin dishful of washing stuff; but these, of course, are exceptional cases. Mr. Gillies is of opinion that the gold is distributed over a large tract of country, and that it is likely to be a permanent as well as a rich gold-field. The country around is beautifully grassed, and in the Tuapeka and Waitahuna valleys there is some of the richest agricultural land in the province. About 1000 men were on the spot, and the greatest harmony and cheerfulness prevailed. The weather was fine, but very cold in the nights and mornings. The Lindis gold-fields have not realised the great expectations formed of them. The latest accounts state that the diggers were leaving, and that not more than 100 remained on the two diggings, who were barely paying their expenses.

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN NEW ZEALAND.—COMMISSIONERS ISSUING LICENCES TO SEARCH FOR GOLD.

When the news first reached the Australian colony of Victoria, wonderful was the excitement of the population. The first event of consequence was the transmission of 3000 ounces from Dunedin to Sydney. Then came the steamer Oscar to Melbourne, on the 7th of September, with 5827 ounces. The news was published in the second edition of the *Argus*, and on its reaching Castlemaine and Ballarat on the same (Saturday) night almost the whole population turned out into the streets and crowded the places of public resort to gain intelligence. From this time the "leviathan" American coaches holding sixteen passengers have come down crowded. The Melbourne streets are thronged with diggers, and between 8000 and 9000 have already embarked in the New Zealand "rush." Soon after the above news arrived the large clipper-ship Lightning was laid on for New Zealand, and she sailed on the 14th with 703 passengers, the steamer Omeo and two sailing-vessels going out of port at the same time with 1300 more. Since then ships have continued to fill with passengers readily, though some of the more prudent miners have determined to wait for further intelligence, warned, no doubt, by the recollection of Port Curtis of the folly of acting upon insufficient evidence. At length

THE GOLD-DIGGINGS IN NEW ZEALAND.

GOLD-DIGGERS AT SUPPER.

that evidence has been furnished. On Sunday, the 22nd, the Omeo came in with 6900 ounces, and on Monday, the 25th, the Aldinga arrived with 2400 ounces. But this is not all. We obtain by these arrivals authentic official intelligence which enables the miners to calculate their own chances of success with some approach to accuracy. The escort of the 21st of August took down to Dunedin 5066 ounces, that of the 4th of September, 7750 ounces, and that of the 18th of September, 11,181 ounces. The quantity obtained in the month of August was about 16,000 ounces, and the number of diggers was under 3000. This would average about £20 a head. We hear of no "great nuggets" or "jeweller's shops," but there is rather a steady reward for labour. Of course, every article of consumption is scarce and dear. The roads are in a wretched condition. The climate is somewhat harsh, after that of Victoria, and shelter is inadequate. But the miner does not calculate the adverse side of the accounts, or, if he does, he knows that commercial activity soon causes scarcity to pass away. The consequence of the news brought by the Orneo and Aldinga is seven steamers advertised for Otago, and twenty-one sailing-vessels, many of them of a large class. But why should men rush from a country which still yields nearly 2,000,000 to one the productiveness of which is still to be ascertained? The answer is easy. Gold-mining in Australia has come to be an enterprise carried on by large companies with capital and combined labour, whereas a large number of the miners are still attached to the old system of working independently with mattock, shovel, and cradle in shallow sinkings, which are well-nigh exhausted in Victoria, though shallow deposits may yet be found. It is the shallow sinkers and surfacers who "rush" to new fields, and it is these for the most part who are "rushing" to New

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN NEW ZEALAND.—ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS RECEIVING GOLD FOR RECONT.

Zealand. A digger who has been to New Zealand says there has been hitherto very little skill exhibited by the miners there; that "not a hole has been bottomed." Now, Australian miners will not be content with "surfacing," or even "shallow sinking," but will penetrate below the first strata, and try deep sinking. They will also test the quartz rock. Some of the first-class miners, partaking in large companies, have sent one of their number to New Zealand to inspect and report, those who stay behind working his share of the claim in his absence. One family of five brothers have clubbed together to send one of their number on a similar errand. If the new gold-field is to be made highly productive, these are the men to do it. Attorneys and doctors have joined the "rush" in numbers at least equal to the demand. A steady American has taken two coaches there. In short, every conceivable want will be supplied rapidly from Melbourne, including a job printing-office, which has already been forwarded by an enterprising firm, and one of the partners sails with the intention of establishing a newspaper. The *Argus* has sent down a special correspondent, but his accounts are likely to be biassed to check the rush. Indications of gold have also been found in other places. In digging a well at Canterbury a small nugget was turned up at a depth of sixty feet, and in the Karori stream, near Wellington, small particles have been found. These indicate an auriferous country. Victorian bankers and merchants are getting alarmed at the numbers leaving the colony. It will do no harm. Trade has been long depressed, and the New Zealand demand must stimulate it. Melbourne, the chief city of Victoria, is also the commercial metropolis of Australia. If New Zealand should add a million a year to the wealth of Australia, Victoria must have its share. Agriculture is sure to be stimulated. It is already shipping horses and sheep to Dunedin. A great amount of tonnage finds employment, and prices, generally, are beginning to improve. Moreover, when the news reaches England that such enterprising shipowners as Baines and Co., and Bright Brothers and Co., will, no doubt, find it to their advantage to lay on ships for New Zealand. Emigration will be restimulated, and, as the facilities for what may be called natural adjustment are now very great, the wealth and population of Victoria cannot increase without the others sharing it. Can any one doubt that the whole of the Australian colonies have fully shared in the prosperity of Victoria? In 1851 the total population of Australia and New Zealand was about 550,000. In 1861 it is 1,300,000. That rate is not likely to be maintained; but at the rate of increase of the last few years, excluding the four years of the great rush, we shall double our population in nine years. Certainly, it is not too much to expect that in 1871 the Australian colonies, with New Zealand, will have a population of 2,500,000; and, if the new gold-fields turn out to be rich and permanent, the population will probably then exceed 3,000,000.

We give this week a series of Engravings illustrative of the life of the gold-digger. In the first we have the commissioners issuing their licenses and receiving the fees, which form a valuable fund for the making of roads and other administrative purposes. 2500 of these licenses had been issued when the last intelligence was dispatched. In the second Engraving we see the gold-diggers at work, just as they are described in a letter written by a miner:—"The diggings lie in a gully between two ranges of hills, and a small creek runs through, where the diggers have their tents pitched close alongside. The gully is very narrow in some places, and not over 200 yards in the widest; all the best claims are taken up. Any man, however, who can stand up to his knees all day in water can get 25s. per day and his grub. The average findings on these diggings are about £2 per man per day; but there are plenty not making more than their grub, and there are some working for 10s. a day and their grub. There are a few lucky ones making £40 per day, but that is only one party consisting of six. My advice is for people to stay where they are for two months; this gully will then be worked out, and Mr. Reid says that when it is he will show them another. I would also advise parties of six to form themselves at home, and provide themselves with a California pump, sluice, picks, shovels, tents, blankets, &c.; whatever they need in the way of provisions can be obtained in Dunedin. I have had a cold ever since I came here; at present I would not go and dig for any man under £3 per day. It is killing work, and every man deserves to do well.—F. B. T."

Killing work, no doubt, as he says; but in a sense that by no means implies that anybody dies. On the contrary, there is some true enjoyment in spite of the labour. Look upon our third picture (Engraving), and see how easy and comfortable the party sit at their supper, reckoning up their gains, planning their schemes for the future, and giving many a thought to the relatives afar off, who wait anxiously for the news of their success. The last Engraving of the series shows us the point towards which all the efforts of the diggers tend—the handing over of the gold accumulations to the assistant commissioners provided by Government to receive them and to ensure their safe transmission under escort. On the 18th of September the escort took 7759 ounces, and more gold was then daily coming in.

The population of the gold-fields in the colony of Victoria (from which all the earlier miners in New Zealand will have been drawn) amounted in July last to 355,152, of whom 110,226 were miners; and of these miners 24,675 were Chinese. At these gold-fields there were 776 steam-engines, the aggregate horse-power of which was 11,663. The value of the mining plant was £1,235,277; and the square miles of gold-fields actually worked was 562.

Foreign News.

AMERICA.

CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.

The Royal mail steam-ship La Plata, which arrived at Southampton on Wednesday, brings news that Messrs. Slidell, Mason, Eustace, and Farland, Confederate Commissioners, were forcibly taken out of the Royal Mail Company's steamer Trent, on the 8th inst., whilst on her passage from Havannah to St. Thomas's, by the American war-ship San Jacinto. Commander Williams made the following protest:—"In this ship I am the representative of her Majesty's Government, and I call upon the officers of the ship and passengers generally to mark my words when, in the name of the British Government, and in distinct language, I denounce this as an illegal act—an act in violation of international law, an act, indeed, of wanton piracy, which, had we the means of defence, you would not dare to attempt."

The Europa brings files of papers to the 13th, and telegraphic intelligence viâ Halifax to the 14th. The naval expedition which left Hampton Roads on the 29th of October had successfully bombarded the forts at Port Royal, about fifty miles below Charleston, and had landed a large force at Beaufort. The Confederates are reported to have fired the town, and destroyed the products of the plantations on the approach of the Federal army. Large numbers of slaves had fled to the Federal camp for protection. Port Royal, says a Northern writer, is the name given to the inlet by the French Huguenots in 1562, when they sought to make a settlement in that part of the world, and "Carolina" is from Charles IX. of St. Bartholomew memory. Beaufort is a beautiful little town in South Carolina, on Port Royal Island, and is a Southern watering-place where the wealthy planters live in the hot season, dwelling in houses shaded by the oak and the orange. According to the census of 1850, which is not materially varied in this case by the return of 1860, the population of the Beaufort district was:—Total white population, 5947; free (coloured), 579; total, free population, 6529; slaves, 32,279; which gives an average in round numbers of five slaves for every white inhabitant. Much of the county is composed of islands, and the possession of Port Royal Island would enable the Unionists to put a stop to most of that inside traffic which has been so useful to the Confederates. Rice and sea-island cotton (the finest in the world) grow on these islands.

Another Government fleet was reported by the New Orleans papers off Shipping Point, near the mouth of the Mississippi. The papers were in a state of great trepidation fearing that it might be intended for New Orleans. Another fleet was about to leave for Southern waters. Its exact destination was unknown.

Little of importance had occurred in the neighbourhood of Washington. It was thought that the Confederates were rapidly withdrawing their troops from Virginia for the protection of their coast. General Beauregard had been ordered to the command of the army in South Carolina.

The Confederate batteries on the Lower Potomac were quieter.

A United States' gun-boat had captured a Confederate vessel in the Rappahannock River. Favourable intelligence continued to be received from Western Virginia. General Rosencranz had reported his army in good condition.

A large number of the prominent citizens of Kentucky had been indicted for treason by the grand jury recently in session at Frankfort. Among them was John C. Breckenridge, late Vice-President of the United States. General Buckner (Confederate) was reported to be moving southward with his army. A battle of considerable importance had been fought at Belmont, in South-eastern Missouri, between 3500 Unionists under Generals Grant and M'Clerland, and 7000 Confederates under General Cheatam. Over 300 Confederates were reported killed, and about 150 captured. The loss on the Union side was about 300 killed, wounded, and prisoners. The Confederates had evacuated Belmont, and by the surprise were prevented from sending reinforcements to General Price.

At Houston, in Texas county, the Union troops had captured a large number of cattle and mules, and taken a number of prisoners.

General Price continued to retreat, and had nearly reached the northern boundary of Arkansas. There were indications of an immediate engagement between him and General Hunter's command. General Fremont had returned to St. Louis, and General Halleck had been appointed to supersede him in the command of the Western Department.

The elections which had taken place in several of the States had given large Union majorities. The unconditional Union ticket in Maryland was elected by a majority of over seventeen thousand.

A lecture on American nationality has been delivered by Mr. Emerson. A couple of sentences embody one of the lecturer's leading ideas:—"Our leaders," he says, "may be timid, but events are bold; and what signifies a proclamation or secretary's order against the logic of events? In spite of themselves, one army will stand for slavery pure, and the other for freedom pure." Such is the belief which is entertained by one of the most philosophic minds in America.

Mr Russell, the *Times* correspondent, speaking of "Unofficial Ambassadors," says:—"The departure of Mr. Thurlow Weed and Bishop Hughes for Europe is in pursuance of the resolution, the existence of which I announced in a previous letter, to send unofficial ambassadors or representatives to England and France to counteract the effects of Mr Mason and Mr. Slidell's mission, and to make explanations and enter upon negotiations with the two Governments as well as to sound the depths of popular feeling and ascertain the views of leading men in the political world. The former is the Nestor of the outside politicians who pull the legs and hands of the players on the stage; he is an astute, clear-headed able man, who has managed the company on his side of the House for many years with success and profit, and the newspaper he edits is one of the best written and most decent in the United States. Bishop Hughes is a Roman Catholic prelate of attainments and political experience, moderate for one in his position, skilful and anti-English. He has worked the Irish element in the States for a considerable period, and has used it in favour of Mr. Seward. It will be a keen encounter of wits."

FRANCE.

The attention of the Paris press is still directed to the project of disarmament as implied in the financial propositions of M. Fould; and in this discussion, as in the majority of others, opinion is by no means unanimous. Retrenchment is, indeed, the watchword of all; but the particular kind of retrenchment is a subject of active discussion. Neither the army nor the navy can be reduced, says the *Patrie*, unless similar reductions are made in all the great countries of Europe. The *Débats* is more reasonable in its arguments. It treats the *Patrie* jocularly, and says that the heading of an article entitled "The Impossibility of a Disarmament" ought to have been "The impossibility of France not spending more than her revenue." This is the great fact for consideration after all; and as the old proverb says you cannot both have your cake and eat it, so the French Government will find they cannot both have their money and spend it. They must make up their minds to labour under chronic financial distress, or lessen the expenditure of the country, and for the latter no way seems to be more ready than a reduction of the army and navy.

The entrance fee to the Exchange has been abolished.

M. Gelletier has been appointed Councillor of State and Secretary-General to the Ministry of Finance.

Monseigneur Lacordaire is dead.

ITALY.

The Session of the Italian Parliament, on which so much of the future of that country is believed to hang, was opened on the 20th inst. The Prime Minister, Baron Ricasoli, explained to the Chamber the present position of the Roman question, and the proposals he had made for the independence of the Pope. Those proposals were that the Pope and Cardinals should preserve their inviolability and dignity; that he should be guaranteed in all his acts of divine right as Chief of the Church; that he should have power to convene synods and councils; that he should have an adequate revenue; and that the State should make over to him the unrestricted right to the appointment of Bishops. The Baron stated that he had requested the French Emperor to mediate between Italy and his Holiness; but the Pope showed so much coldness on the subject that the mediation—which the speech allows us to suppose did actually take place—was not attended with any result. This speech led to an animated debate in the Chamber, and ultimately it was resolved to treat of the affairs of Rome and Naples together in one formal discussion.

The bill for levying the war tax in all the provinces of the kingdom passed the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday last by 191 against 10 votes. On Tuesday the Neapolitan members, the Duke di Proto and Signor Maddaloni, laid on the table of the House a petition demanding a Parliamentary inquiry into the state of things in Naples. This petition was worded in extremely violent terms against Sardinia. The Chamber decided that it should be read in public sitting. Great sensation has been created by this incident.

A Turin paper publishes the reply of Garibaldi to the address presented to him by the Neapolitans. One or two passages are pointed out as remarkable—that in which he exhorts every Italian to have his sword ready, and another in which, after expressing his regret that he cannot be with the people of Naples at present, he pledges himself to appear amongst them the moment his presence is necessary. There seems, however, no reason to attach any present or peculiar significance to those phrases.

On the night between the 23rd and 24th inst. a detachment of French troops made 110 brigands prisoners near Alatri. They also seized two cannons in the mountains.

PORTUGAL.

The following proclamation was addressed by the young King of Portugal to his people on ascending the throne:—

Palace of Belem, Nov. 14.

Portuguese,—In virtue of the impenetrable decrees of Divine Providence, and in conformity with the political institutions of the kingdom, I have been called to preside over the destinies of the nation. The painful shock which I have felt, owing to the immense loss we have sustained, has overwhelmed my heart. The country mourns the death of the most just and enlightened of Sovereigns, and I shed tears over the tomb of the most affectionate of brothers. In the exercise of the difficult mission confided to me, I will

endeavour to follow the noble examples left me by the virtuous Monarch so prematurely removed from the love of his people. To observe faithfully the political institutions of my country is equally concordant with my duties and my sentiments. In executing the constitutional charter of the monarchy, I swear to maintain the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman religion, and the integrity of the kingdom; to observe and enforce the observance of the political constitution of the Portuguese nation, as well as the other laws of the Kingdom, and to secure, as far as in me lies, the general welfare of the nation. This oath will soon be ratified by me in the approaching assembly of the general Cortes of the Portuguese nation. I have ordered that the present Ministers and Secretaries of State shall remain in the exercise of their respective functions.

THE KING.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

From St. Petersburg we hear that the resignation of Admiral Putiatin, Minister for Public Instruction, was momentarily expected, and that General Titoff, formerly Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, will be his probable successor. According to the same letters, General Kryjtnowski has been appointed to succeed the late General Gerstenzweig in the Military Governorship of Poland. Prince Suwaroff-Rymniksky, Governor-General of Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland, has been appointed Governor-General of St. Petersburg, and replaced in his former functions by General Baron de Lieven. General Rokascowsky replace General de Berg as Governor-General of Finland.

We have another evidence of the painful condition to which the people of Poland are reduced. The military chief of Gostynim has issued a circular complaining of the women singing "revolutionary" songs. These women, the Military Governor says, belong to the rich and middle classes, but he is determined they shall not escape him for all that, as he has prepared buildings sufficiently large to imprison all the women who may be arrested.

SPAIN.

Fresh difficulties, it is stated, have arisen in reference to the Neapolitan archives question between Spain and Italy. The Spanish Government made it a condition of their delivering up the non-political documents that King Victor Emmanuel should withdraw his first notes; in reply to which the Italian Government demanded that Spain should withdraw the notes in which she declared herself the legitimate depository of the archives. To this we presume the Spanish Government dissented, as the Sardinian Minister demanded his passports, and was to have left M drid on Tuesday.

A treaty of commerce has been signed between Morocco and Spain.

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

Fuad Pacha has been appointed Grand Vizier, and Aali Pacha Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Porte has, upon the suggestion of Sir Henry Bulwer, addressed a note to the foreign representatives, consenting to the union of the Danubian Principalities during the life of Prince Couza, and it is affirmed that there is a general disposition to accept this as a final solution of the question.

The struggle between the Turks and the insurgents is still actively carried on. The last encounters appear to have been favourable to the Turks. On the 21st Dervisch Pacha, after a fight of four hous, defeated with great loss a body of 8000 insurgents near Piva, in Bosnia. Another body which attempted to invade Kaloschin was also repulsed after a bloody fight; and forty Montenegrin barges which attempted to capture a Turkish steamer on the Lake of Scutari were also repulsed with loss.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

We have telegraphic news from China to the 15th of October. The allied troops at that date were leaving Tien-Tsin and Canton. The rebels were troublesome at Ningpo and Hangchow, and the trade at those ports was much obstructed by them.

In Japan the state of affairs is said to be more favourable.

INDIA.—The deaths from cholera in Delhi are officially stated at 2161. The scourge was making fearful ravages in Cabool, the average mortality being 300 a day.

THE BURNING OF THE HARVEY BIRCH.

THE American War is coming home to us in more than one sense of the word, and very dangerous is likely to be its proximity if we do not act with equal courage and tact. The Confederates—who began their war in the spirit and manner that the French soldiers said Louis Napoleon carried his on in Italy—as a conspirator—are now probably conspiring to drag us into it that we may help their failing cause, and give the slave empire they desire to found a better chance by embroiling us with the Federal Government. Let us mark the logic of the facts. An American ship, the Harvey Birch, a peaceable trader, and engaged, too, in a trade of the greatest moment to Europe, that of bringing corn from the abundant granaries of America to satisfy the necessities of the hungry population of France, is arrested on her return from Havre, almost within sight of English shores, by a Confederate war-steamer, her crew taken out, without even time being allowed to collect the whole of their little properties, and then the vessel is set fire to and burnt to the water's edge. The captain of the Harvey Birch, his petty officers, a passenger, and two of the men, sign an agreement that they will not serve against the Confederate States till duly exchanged or discharged; but the rest of the crew refuse, and are immediately put in irons. This pretty little bit of business consummated by the destruction of a vessel of nearly fifteen hundred tons burden, and worth between twenty and thirty thousand pounds, the conquering Captain comes straight into the port of Southampton, sets his prisoners free, knowing, of course, he could not longer keep them, and begins to prepare for more extensive operations, by submitting the ship to a great renovation for war purposes. Meantime the gentleman whom he has brought from the South, by breaking the blockade during a dark night, Colonel Peyton, starts off to London, with his lady, who is said to be the nearest relative of George Washington.

Now, on the very face of these facts there appears to us a clear, unmistakable, and most offensive violation of our neutrality. There is much doubt about the exact state of international law on the subject of belligerents visiting the ports of neutral States; but there can be none whatever that no belligerent can have the right to make us a direct participator in his acts and to turn our hospitality into a weapon of war by measures carefully calculated beforehand. Yet that is actually what Captain Peagrim in the Nashville has done. He could not have burnt the Harvey Birch unless he might do one of these three things:—Let the crew be destroyed with the ship, an atrocity too great even for Confederate views; return with them to America, which, of course, he never for a moment thought of, as he had come for special and important reasons to England; or, lastly, make England help him out of his difficulty by taking off his hands that portion of his prize which he could not otherwise dispose of—the crew. So, in spite of the proclamation of neutrality, Captain Peagrim was able to destroy an American ship by calculating beforehand on our immediate and most important aid, when he could not otherwise have done it. And, in spite of our law forbidding prizes to be brought in, he does bring in the most valuable portion of the prize—the crew. If Captain Nelson's statement is to be believed, he brings in also other parts of the prize, such as fresh provisions which he took from the Harvey Birch; also a chronometer and barometer belonging to the burnt vessel. These things together make a clear case, we think, in the eyes of common sense, of the violation of our neutrality; and, what is of scarcely less importance, we think the Confederates are intending that they should do so, while, of course, they must disavow any such aim.

Some nonsense has been talked about a Federal ship having previously come into Southampton, and that we must set one act against the other. But the coming in is nothing; it is the how and why they come in, as shown by acts, that concern us. What our Government will do is not yet known; but we have every reliance they will satisfy Mr. Lincoln and his advisers that they mean to enforce a real neutrality; and that, if there were any favour shown, it would certainly not be to those who have outraged our coasts by the wanton destruction of an innocent merchantman. The decision, it is said, has been already arrived at in a Cabinet Council that the Nashville shall *not* be refitted as a man-of-war in our ports. On the other hand, Mr. Yancey announces that the Nashville, being recognised as a national vessel, will be allowed to "refit and repair." Probably both accounts are correct.

While on this subject we must say a few words upon the state of international law that allows such barbarous proceedings to take place. It was endeavoured, for some time, by the enemies of the United States, to show that it was all their fault that privateering was not abolished, and that they must now suffer from Southern privateers for their national resistance to the proposals made by the Paris Congress. But, as this matter gets sifted, we find, unfortunately, that it is our own Government, and ours only, that is now responsible for such a standing reproach to civilisation. When the Congress proposed to abolish privateering, it did not propose that armed ships should also cease to attack unarmed ones. The Americans hit the blot at once; and said this would be, in the name of humanity, giving to the greater Powers of Europe, who keep up vast navies, an immense additional strength in case of war; for, while they could pounce at pleasure upon whole flocks of American merchantmen, the Americans, who could only retaliate by turning their mercantile craft into armed privateers, would be estopped by the partial arrangement of the Paris Congress. But, to show they were in earnest in this objection, and that they shared in all the more humane and enlightened ideas of the age, they agreed at once to accept the plan, provided it were made to respect all private property at sea that was strictly engaged in lawful trade. Lord Clarendon, for Lord Palmerston, refused his consent, and the burning of the Harvey Birch is but one of the legitimate consequences. We hope ere long that England and America will renew their efforts to come to a more honourable and satisfactory state of things. We append some interesting additional details.

CREW ORDERED TO LONDON.

In accordance with a request received from Captain Nelson, who had previously gone to London, the whole of the crew of the Harvey Birch were sent up to London on Monday by the 12.30 train, Captain Britton, the American Consul, having made all the necessary arrangements. Captain Nelson has since returned to this town on business connected with the capture of his vessel, the nature of which has not publicly transpired. The captain has since made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a search warrant against the Nashville for the recovery of some of the property he had on board when the Harvey Birch was seized.

OFFICIAL PROTEST OF CAPTAIN NELSON.

On Saturday Captain W. H. Nelson, late commander of the American ship Harvey Birch, made the following protest at the United States' Consulate Office, Gracechurch-street, City, respecting the capture and destruction of his ship:—

"I, William Henry Nelson, of the city of New York, in the United States of America, master mariner, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear that I sailed from the said city of New York on the 20th day of September last, as master of and in the ship Harvey Birch, of New York, a ship owned and registered in New York in conformity with the laws of the United States, bound for the port of Havre de Grace, in France, with a cargo consisting of wheat. About the 9th day of October I arrived at Havre, and, having discharged the cargo of my ship and ballasted her, I sailed in the Harvey Birch again for the port of New York on Nov. 16, first having received the register, crew-list, articles, and all papers belonging to the ship in proper form from the United States Consul there. On the morning of Tuesday, the 19th the ship then being in about lat. 49 6 N., long. 9 52 W., a steamer was made out bearing for the Harvey Birch, which on getting nearer was found to be an armed vessel, and hoisted at the peak the flag of the so-called Confederate States; and, when within hailing, a person on board, who I learnt was the Captain, hailed my ship, saying, 'Haul down your colours, and heave the ship to,' the ensign of the United States being at this time set at the peak of my vessel. This order was complied with, and I then received the order, 'Lower your boat and come on board,' which I also complied with, taking my ship's papers with me. After arriving on board the steamer, I was introduced to the First Lieutenant, by name Fauntleroy, to Captain Peagrim, as commander of the Confederate States' steamer Nashville, to whom I produced all the papers of my ship for examination, to show that I was engaged in legal trade. Captain Peagrim took the ship's papers, he did not return them, and still holds them, and then told me that he should hold me a prisoner of war by authority of the Confederate States. He then told me I might go on board my ship, and I was ordered to send my crew on board the steamer as quickly as possible. I returned to my ship, and at once made preparation to leave her, but orders were repeatedly given from the steamer to bring up, and sufficient time was not given to enable either myself or my crew to get our effects out of the ship. The Second Lieutenant, with other officers, came on board the ship and took charge of her, and orders were given to seize fresh stores, &c., and, in consequence thereof, all the fresh meat, poultry, pigs, eggs, and butter were taken out and put on board the steamer, and especially it was ordered that all the oil, tea, coffee, and sugar should be put on board the steamer, which was done. When all this had been accomplished, the crew left the ship by order of the second lieutenant, I being last on board, leaving the Second Lieutenant and his boat's crew in charge of the ship. After arriving on board the steamer, we saw that the Harvey Birch was in flames, and the Second Lieutenant returned on board the steamer with his boat, which was secured; but the ship's quarter-boats, which had been used in communicating, were cast adrift. Captain Peagrim now said, 'Now, as it is all over, we will give her a gun,' or words to that effect, and a gun was discharged at the ship, but without apparently hitting her. The steamer was then put on an easterly course, the crew of the ship having previously been put in irons. I, with my officers, was summoned to the Captain's cabin, and there signed, at the request of the Captain, a document stating that we would not take up arms against them while in their custody, he having stated that I and my officers should have our liberty on board when we had signed it. I was frequently told that an oath would be exacted of us 'not to take up arms against the Confederate States' before I could be liberated, but I was liberated without any such being taken. The steamer steamed up the English Channel, and arrived at Southampton at about 8 a.m. on the 21st inst., and came to anchor in the river. Captain Peagrim then told me that I and my crew were at liberty, and might go on shore, but he refused to put us on shore, and I therefore employed a steam-tug at my own expense, and landed my crew in Southampton Docks between 9 and 10 a.m., and they were taken charge of by the United States' Consul there. Repeatedly while on board the steamer, in conversation with her officers, I was told that she was not fitted out as a vessel of war, that she was on a special mission to England, but naval officers were in command of her. I was told by one of the crew that the crew originally signed articles at Charleston, South Carolina, to go to Liverpool, but that before sailing the officers were all changed, and new articles were brought on board which the crew were compelled to sign by threats of force. I was also informed that the crew was composed of English and Irish. The chronometer and barometer belonging to the Harvey Birch were taken by Captain Peagrim, who refuses to deliver them up. The Harvey Birch was a ship six years old, and of 1482 tons register. Before we lost sight of the ship her masts had gone over the side, and she was burnt to the water's edge. "W. H. NELSON.

"Sworn in the Consulate of the United States at London, this 22nd day of November, 1861."

LATEST VIEW OF THE BURNING SHIP.—The Harvey Birch was passed by the Lady Cecilia on her voyage to Cork. The Cecilia was bound from Odessa, and when about eighty miles S.E. of Cape Clear she discovered a large ship completely on fire—the hull at the time being considerably destroyed.

BURNING OF THE STEAMER BRIDGE BY THE CONFEDERATE WAR-STEAMER NASHVILLE.

TWO BLACK MASKS.—THE BROTHERS, SEBASTIEN AND JULES, DISCUSSING THEIR "WAYS AND MEANS."

Two Black Masks.

BY

BLANCHARD JERROLD.

CHAPTER VIII.

The two brothers were in their little cabinet on the evening of the 28th of July. Since they had sat at their window watching the first faint indications of the bloody strife that had followed, they had lived, as Jules declared, "a century."

From morn to sundown they had been in the midst of fighting crowds. Thousands of discharged workmen had thrown up barricades; had armed themselves with sticks and pikes; and stoned Marmont's soldiers. The National Guard, unbidden, had come boldly forth in their regimentals, musket in hand, to stand by the people. The whole length of the Rue Richelieu, the Royal arms, torn from the shop fronts, lay scattered in the road. Before noon the tricolor, bound with crape, danced over the Hôtel de Ville and over the old storied Church of Notre Dame. The cathedral bell, deep-toned, called the people to arms. To arms they went right willingly. Marmont's twelve thousand men had not a riot, but a vast, outraged population, to meet. The people held guard before the house where their chosen representatives deliberated. Charges of infantry; stone-throwing from barricades; discharges of musketry; wild and savage cries; in the turbulent St. Antoine quarter a fight to the death! Still a stubborn Government, depending upon poor Marshal Marmont, who does his duty against the citizens, while he allows that his sympathies are with their cause. Deputies said, if the King will not relent we throw body and property into the people's cause: obstinate, bad old King replies, act on masses—wholesale slaughter! And the sun went down on the 28th.

The brothers had spent the day anxiously flitting from point to point to learn the latest news. They had sought in vain for authentic news from the Tuileries, St. Cloud, and from Lafayette and his patriotic companions. From hour to hour they had the most contradictory reports from the scouts they threw out. The troops had driven the people from the Hôtel de Ville: the troops had been repulsed in the St. Antoine quarter: a provisional Government had been proclaimed: the King had flown: the powder depot was in the hands of the populace: the Swiss were cut to pieces.

Sebastien returned home while it was yet daylight, and while the ring of musketry was in his ears, to write letters. He had weathered many storms; he had ridden triumphantly over the adverse waves of chance. He was accustomed to wriggle successfully through the muddiest waters. He fronted misfortune manfully, and had always contrived to be the victor. He had grown confident in his strength. But Fortune, who had smiled on him so often, had aggravated his native audacity. He had seen so many speculators fall at his elbow, while he had stood erect and unscathed, that he had acquired a superstitious confidence in himself. He believed in his star. Success was an inheritance, not the reward of prudent sagacity, nor of wise audacity. Strong in this self-conceit, Sebastien had engaged in a perilous enterprise that might double his capital or annihilate it. He was occupied in that ingenious commercial process known as rigging the market when Paris became troubled, and the funds were agitated. Every man buttoned his pockets and remained waiting the issue of the contest. On the evening of the 27th Sebastien already saw that the ordinances meant something more than a few street rows. He said, "We are in full revolution.

TWO BLACK MASKS.—WORKMEN IN PARIS PROMENADING THE STREETS.

Don't let us disguise the fact from ourselves. The workshops from one end of Paris to the other will flood the streets. Let him escape who can."

On the evening of the 28th, when Jules joined his brother at their lodgings, he found Sebastien poring over a mass of papers. He was pale, and was doing his work with feverish haste.

"Ruin, my dear Sebastien, ruin!" cried Jules, throwing himself into an open chair and wiping his brow. "The mob will carry all before them. We shall have a Republic—red, ay, as red as the shade of Marat could wish it."

"Pshaw!" from Sebastien, who still shuffled and sorted and packed his papers. "Pshaw! let it be as red as a commissary's lamp: we are not politicians."

"But do you know where the funds are? Do you know that all that," pointing to a pile of scrip that lay before Sebastien, "is so much paper you may sell to a tobacconist as soon as you like? The money for which we are responsible will be peremptorily demanded; and on all our shares we shall not be able to raise a twenty-sous-piece. I repeat it, Sebastien, we are ruined."

Jules lit his cigar, and exhibited as much emotion as he considered compatible with elegance of attitude. Sebastien kept to his work. Jules puffed smoke-curls into the air. Presently Jules resumed—

"Tell me frankly, Sebastien, do you see any way out of the mess?"

Sebastien made no answer. After a pause Jules repeated his question.

Sebastien turned rapidly and vehemently upon his brother—

"Jules, I confess that, formidable as our difficulties have often been, they are not, all lumped together, to be compared with this. Money must be had. I have turned over everything, thought of everybody, wrung my brain dry, and I am, I confess it at last, without a plan."

"It has come to the worst, then?" Jules answered.

"The worst, and the very worst. I tell you I am without a plan—helpless—an infant."

"At the moment when, for the first time, I was as confident as yourself that we had the ball at our feet," Jules muttered.

"We had, indeed, a fine game—had I been allowed to play it out. But now, we want time; and time must be bought: and we have not the purchase-money."

"True," Jules assented. "And we can't get it."

"There is a bitter in all this. I can't forget. Look ye, Jules. I have written—but mind—a last letter—to Baptiste."

"Baptiste! *You* have written to Baptiste?" Jules started. Sebastien had always declined to write to the happy, the contended aristocrat of Beauregard. "Then the case must be at its worst. *You*; *you*—have written to Baptiste!" Jules again and again repeated, folding his arms and staring in his brother's face. "Saprisli!" Then Jules expressed his astonishment by a long, loud whistle.

"I have written to Baptiste, Jules," said Sebastien.

"Ay, an humble letter, showing our poverty: and begging help."

"Miracle upon miracle!" cried Jules.

"And I know our answer beforehand. I see Augustine's anger: I hear her abuse of the tradesmen-brothers. You know how weak—to put it in the most generous light—our dear brother is. Baptiste will reply in some of his high-flown sentences. He will remind us how he cautioned us long ago. We shall be told, for the twentieth time, that we have soiled our escutcheon: our political twists will be set out to our disadvantage; and we shall not receive a liard—not the fraction of a liard."

"It's frightful," said Jules, as he made another cigarette.

"We shall, I fear, my dear Jules, be the laughing-stock of our rich brother, and that excellent heiress, his wife. We shall possibly become clerks in some house in which we have acted as great financiers; and on Sundays, walking with some little grisette to eat gibelottes at the barrière, you will lift your hat to the equipage of Madame the Countess."

"This is hardly the time for trifling, Sebastien," Jules replied, with more authority than he generally exhibited before his astute brother.

"Trifling!" little Sebastien nearly screamed, "trifling!" Then, with great dignity—"Perhaps, Sir, you will be good enough to show me where my picture is exaggerated! Our credit gone; our papers worthless until in the hands of others; commerce dull, and hundreds of poor scamps eager to thrust their heads into the first situation that offers. Tell me, I beg, what we are to expect? I shall be happy to hear that our prospects are brighter than I paint them. Go on, Jules."

But Jules was much perplexed. He had nothing to suggest, and he began to tremble at the sight of the future, as drawn by the master-hand of his brother. Was he, indeed, to become a shabby loiterer in the byways; to haunt cheap eating-houses; to smile over fourteen-sous wine in steaming, lightless wine-shops, elbowing waiters on their holidays, journeymen tailors and their spouses, and all the motley crew whose daily anxiety is how to buy soup and wine and keep a roof over their heads. He! to rejoice over a pennyworth of hot chestnuts bought under a doorway on a frosty night!

Sebastien continued sternly, seeing his brother's embarrassment, "I shall only be too delighted, Jules, if you can make the least suggestion. I tell you frankly, I have cast out my last anchor, and have very little hope that it will catch."

The drums that rolled in the distance and the hum of hundreds and thousands of men in the streets did not distract the brothers. Jules dashed his cigarette to the ground.

"I've no more in me than an empty glove," he answered.

Sebastien looked disdainfully up at his brother's vacant face.

"Show me a loophole," said the little schemer, "the smallest loophole, and I warrant that I will find my way through it."

Jules only shook his head and shrugged his shoulders.

"Those drums may well roll their loudest, for they must drown the cries of thousands of ruined men. It is the Lazarus march they are playing; and in the wake of this shouting crowd will follow solemn ranks of beggared gentlemen. Why should we hope to escape, Jules? Come, let us fall in with the rest. Our game is up: we must live henceforth on the memories of the past."

Jules was fairly overpowered by the earnestness of his brother. He had come for consolation in his fear. His only hope was in his brother's sagacity and courage. When Sebastien declared that there was an end of it, the voice of Doom had spoken. The big dandy caught his brother by both hands, and passionately prayed to be saved at any price, at any sacrifice, from beggary. Sebastien mockingly referred the trembling wretch to Count Baptiste, adding, "He has been so good and generous to us. His respect for us is so profound. He made his money by marriage; we have sought fortune by the help of the faculties God has granted us. He remains prosperous; we turn up without a sou. He is our brother, and we should naturally turn to his cupboard when ours is empty."

"To him?" Jules cried, staring into his brother's eyes, to catch his hidden meaning. "To him? Look there, Sebastien, at that fellow, seeking his bread in the gutter, peaceful and content, even in these hours; look at him!" Jules pointed to a poor fellow who was labouring along the kerb in the street below, lantern in hand, searching for rags, while the drums were rolling. "I would rather share a cellar, up by the Panthéon with that man, than taste from the Count de Capelle's larder." Jules shook his head defiantly, and strutted with the air of a man who was conscious that he had said a grand thing.

Both Jules and Sebastien had already forgotten how they had again and again beseeched their brother to intrust some of his money to them.

"But is there not, dear brother," Jules again asked, "is there not some escape?"

Sebastien paused; then emphatically declared that he saw no escape—unless——

Jules grasped his brother's arm and shouted, "I knew, I knew, Sebastien would never be beaten!"

"Be quiet; you will never agree to the alternative, for it is a terrible one. Say no more about it, and let us bear adversity like men."

"I am your slave," Jules cried. "Blindfold me, and I will follow you wherever you may choose to lead."

"No. Your courage would fail you."

"I would never allow even a brother to doubt my courage."

"Tush! tush!" impatiently, from Sebastien. "We are not consoling sentiments. Look here! There is one terrible way out of this difficulty. If you have faith in me to swear to me by all that is sacred you will go through the ordeal with me, and that you will never breathe a word to human ear on the subject, the game may still remain in our hands; but I warn you that no two freebooters ever went forth on a more desperate venture than we shall be bent upon. I am ready to face all that adversity can devise to my discomfort. I have never enjoyed the world as you have. For yourself, then, rather than for myself, I speak."

"Speak, speak! brother."

"Swear!"

Jules solemnly lifted his right arm in the manner of witnesses in French law courts, and, in the most sacred form, swore to be obedient and silent.

Then his brother drew him into a corner and whispered his plot. We shall know something more of it later; and why, as he listened to his brother's whispers, Jules sobbed like a beaten child.

CHAPTER IX.

The relations between Edmond and Antoine, the conductor of the diligence that connected Beauregard and adjacent towns with Paris, had been the subject of several gossips between Mdme. Souchet and the Big Corporal.

"It will end badly," the Corporal would declare. And then he would dip his lump of sugar in the dram of brandy his admiring hostess had given him, and enter into long, if not very clear, descriptions of the plots and clubs which accompanied the Consulate and the Empire.

"Bayonets for these skulking clubmen—that has always been my maxim: ay, and I've acted up to it more than once." The Big Corporal looked very big, and still munched his sugar between his toothless gums.

"I'm sure the village is insupportable," the widow said, "quite insupportable. The most mysterious things are going on. I say nothing, but I must confess that I don't like it. I don't feel easy. My mind's not at rest. I'm uncomfortable." Mdme. Souchet exhibited the strength of her emotion by presenting it in five or six shapes. Thus, when she was very cold, she described herself as far from warm, very far indeed; quite chilly; shaking with the cold; petrified with the frost; cold as a stone, as ice, as marble.

There was that in the village of Beauregard which would have given uneasy moments to a stronger head than that of Widow Souchet. The outrage at the château had alarmed everybody, but it had not disgusted twenty persons. The insolent bearing of the Count, who had threatened to fire at the first man he saw within gunshot of his door, was talked about, until cowherds and ploughmen gnashed their teeth and swore that they would be revenged. The Curé could hardly contain his indignation when he found the tricolor floating from the steeple of his little church. The Mayor, a small farmer, was in the utmost perplexity for days, and at last made off to his sous prefecture, to learn what he was to do.

Edmond kept steadily at his business throughout the day. He possibly kept his spirits up by expressing a wish that he had an aristocrat's head upon his anvil, accompanying the wish with tremendous blows upon the red-hot iron he was shaping; but this harmless refreshment kept him at work and out of harm. Outwardly, the village had resumed its calm. The breaking of the château windows had not been followed with grave results. The Curé, from his pulpit, had exhorted his congregation to keep order and to await the result of passing events with calm resignation. The rustics looked as vacant and obedient as sheep, and, in orderly fashion as usual, went to the harvesting.

One part of Beauregard only was silent and still. The Count de Capelle had kept his word. On the morrow of the outrage on his premises he had discharged all his farm servants, bidding them return when they brought the offenders, in custody, before him. Old Henri had implored his master to recall this harsh verdict. All these men would be thrown idle upon the commune; they would go away in anger, and fall the easy prey of those villagers who were already disaffected. The Count waved his hand impatiently, and bade Henri do his duty. Henri was intrusted with the care of paying the men their wages; and, as the last of them retired, he tied his leather bag tightly, muttering to himself, "This will end badly!"

The dozen men who were thrown out of employ by the Count's rigid adherence to his word had wages to spend. One or two went home, cursing brawlers and revolutionary singers, and the like; but, as Henri had wisely foretold, the majority tarried in the village, and found their way to the Bon Voyageur. The Widow Souchet, although she was likely to make some good days receipts, was not gracious in her manner of receiving the Count's dismissed servants. As they discussed their grievances, she told them that they had themselves and Edmond to thank. When people would not mind their own business, and got improper ideas about their betters, and went drinking and singing under windows, and talked about rights and wrongs, while they had plenty to eat and drink, such people deserved to come to a bad end. There was that Edmond, there, who had lost the Count's custom for ever, because he would not be decently civil to the gentleman's children. Virginie had told her all about it; and she would rather believe Virginie than the whole pack of them. Then some of them must go and break the château windows—uncivil devils that they were! Well, they would soon find their mistake out, and she would not spare a grain of pity for one of them.

The men received the widow's vehement address with jeers and whistling, and all the various expressions of contempt which bumpkins who were not restrained by the laws of polite society could invent. The Big Corporal told the lads that there was more truth in the widow's words than they were prepared to relish. He should advise them to make their peace with their master on any terms, and return to their work. Every man who could live by his labour should be content with his lot. Suppose he had been insolent to his General because he had not champagne at mess every day, why, he would have been shot like a dog, and he would have deserved his fate. Edmond entered. He was quiet in manner, and merely nodded to the company. He asked the labourers from the castle what kind of a day's work they had done.

"Just such a day's work as you would have cut out for them," Widow Souchet called from the next room.

"Silence, baggage!" Edmond growled. "When petticoats turn prophets, times have come to a pretty pass!"

"Coarse brute!" the Big Corporal grunted to himself.

The château labourers recounted, with all possible redundancy of detail, the conduct the Count had pursued towards them.

"And pray," Edmond asked, "pray what do you intend to do?"

"What," cried the widow, interrupting again, "to do? Why, to go home to their families, like honest men. That's what they mean to do!"

Edmond went straightway to the door, and slammed it, saying, "These are not times for women's gabble."

The Big Corporal, vexed beyond endurance, called the blacksmith an ignorant boor; to which compliment Edmond replied, "Driveller!"

Edmond proceeded to show his injured neighbours how they should vindicate their rights. He was not the open counsellor of vengeance; but he showed them the Count's crops rotting in the fields, his cattle straying, and weeds getting the victory everywhere. He would advise them to read him a lesson, by declining to return to work themselves, and by preventing others from taking their places. These angry men were easily convinced that the Count was their natural enemy, and that the time had come when he might be fought with advantage.

When Edmond left them he rubbed his hands on his way home, and said to himself, "A brave company of recruits! Thanks, Count de Capelle; thanks!"

The blacksmith lifted his latch, calling here and there a "Good-night" to a neighbour, with his wonted

cheeriness. Sleep came upon the village, and the moon rose and dipped below the horizon, while all was quiet as the Valley of Death. It was not more than an hour after midnight when the latch of the blacksmith's shop was stealthily lifted, and a man, dressed in the sheep-skin of a shepherd, barefooted and bareheaded, crept forth, and crouched—listening. There was not a deeper silence in the narrow home where his father was sleeping, in the churchyard hard by, than that which wrapped the slumbers of the good folk of Beauregard. A ring of light, faint and misty, was round the horizon, but the dome of heaven sent little light to the earth. It was a night craftily-chosen hour for a secret meeting; for the evildoer who had a crime to plot; for the chain-oppressed who had planned escape; or for the sweet exchange of love-tokens—guardians, and fathers, and mistresses being sunk deep in their first sleep.

Whither, in this still and solemn hour, could Edmond be stealing? He walked rapidly along in the black shadows of the trees, pausing from time to time to listen. He was as calm as when at his forge he fashioned a plough-horse shoe. Once clear of the village, he drew out a sheepskin tobacco-pouch, plugged his pipe, and, with a flint, lit it. He now rushed smartly forward. Some hounds barked in the distance. Edmond turned towards the sound, shook his stick, and muttered, "Wait awhile!" He was bent on no amiable errand. About a mile from Beauregard he turned to the right along a cart-track that penetrated to the heart of a forest, for the convenience of the wood-merchants. Arrived at an opening wherein the fallen timber lay in mighty black stacks, he halted, looked cautiously round about, whistled twice, and then, not being answered, sate upon an elm trunk to finish his pipe. In a few minutes he became very impatient, and glanced anxiously ahead. He was on business that became darkness, and day would break shortly.

At the sound of breaking branches and crisp foot-steps upon the dry brushwood he started, bent forward, and repeated the double whistle. It was answered.

Edmond thrust his pipe into his belt, grasped his stick, and advanced in the direction whence the sound of footsteps had proceeded. He saw the glimmer of a lantern swinging in a man's hand.

"A lantern!" Edmond muttered. "The fool!"

Two blouses presently reached the spot where Edmond was standing.

"You are late, Antoine," Edmond said.

Antoine was disguised in a peasant's blue, like his companion. Widow Souchet, it would seem, was not far from the truth when she suspected that there were relations which never met the day, between Edmond and the conductor or guard of the diligence.

"The gentleman (pointing to his companion) detained me," said Antoine.

Edmond bowed to the second blouse. And then the three fell into a rapid, serious, and, at times, an angry conversation. The "gentleman" who accompanied Antoine took the lead. He asked Edmond a hundred searching questions. Was he sure of his men? Were they bold, resolute—to be depended upon? Had he warmed their courage? Would they follow him? Edmond replied that he was not an infant. If his word was worth nothing, there was an end of the business. Antoine must have told the gentleman that he (Edmond) was a patriot, not a man whose cudgel could be hired. If others wanted pay, he could not help it. The gentleman wanted to know whether he knew his follows. Did he know his own mother?

"Enough!" said the gentleman. "Now listen. This night after to-morrow at midnight will you be here?"

Edmond vowed that there should not be a single tenant.

"For the wine and brandy Antoine will make arrangements. Depend upon them."

"Good!" said Edmond. "Both will be necessary. But nothing must come from the village. You understand, Antoine?"

"We understand perfectly," the gentleman replied. "The torches we'll make here. Bring the pitch with you."

The gentleman then took Edmond by the hand, warmly, and said, "Brave patriot! you are an honour to our society. These men of yours must be kept in excellent temper: you must be their wet-nurse, and here is the wherewithal."

A canvas bag, heavy with silver, was dropped into the blacksmith's hands. "You will be remembered, and will be rewarded and protected."

Edmond bowed, and thrust the bag into his pocket.

Antoine glanced towards the sky.

"The light is coming."

"Both!" cried the gentleman. "Then we are no longer safe. All is agreed, my brave fellow?"

Edmond assented.

Antoine drew a bottle from his breast, and offered it first to his companion.

The gentleman sipped, and cried, "Success!"

"Success!" echoed Edmond and Antoine, as they successively grasped the bottle.

And the three hastily parted.

The hounds at the château were still barking when Edmond glided swiftly homeward.

"Ay, ay, bark away!" the blacksmith muttered. "A few hours, and we shall see who can bite!"

JOHN RANDOLPH was one of the most sarcastic men that ever lived. One time a young man attempted to make his acquaintance. He obtained an introduction, and among other remarks said, "I passed by your house lately, Mr. Randolph." "I hope you always will," was the reply.

The Volunteers.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE 1ST SURREY.—On Saturday last the distribution of prizes shot for in the annual competition by the 1st Surrey Rifles took place in the centre transept, Crystal Palace, under the distinguished auspices of Lady Pollock. The prizes consisted of silver plate—an elaborately-chased épergne, challenge cups, purses of money, rifles, &c. The Royal standard, union jack, stacks of armour, cutlasses, and the flags of all nations tastefully disposed decorated the orchestra, in front of which the presentation took place. We have given the names of the winners in a previous Number.

THE QUEEN'S "WESTMINSTER" VOLUNTEERS.—A cup, presented by Mr. Angell, of the Strand, was competed for on Saturday last at Wormholt Scrubbs with the following result:—Private Hunt, thirteenth company, 16 points; Sergeant Peckover, twelfth company, 16 points; but Mr. Hunt having made 14 hits against Sergeant Peckover's 13 was declared the winner.

ST. JAMES'S COMPANY OF THE QUEEN'S.—The prize meeting of the St. James's (twelfth) company of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers took place on Thursday week at Wormwood Scrubbs. The chief prize of the day was a handsome silver challenge cup, value 30 guineas, presented by the ladies of St. James's. There were fifty competitors for it; ranges, 300, 600, and 700 yards, five shots at each range. This cup was won by Ensign Gullick making 16 points. A Henry rifle, presented by Corporal Sartoris, was won by Corporal Shipway; and a silver cup, value 10 guineas, presented by the local committee, was won by Private Hadwen, who made 18 points.

MATCH BETWEEN THE 39TH AND 4TH MIDDLESEX.—On Saturday last a shooting match took place at Hornsey-wood House between six members of the 39th Middlesex (Finsbury) and six of the 4th Middlesex (North London Rifles). The firing on both sides was very creditable, and the match was closely contested, but was ultimately decided in favour of the 39th.

A GOOD CONTEST.—In a competition a few days ago between the Seisdon and Patshall (Lord Dartmouth's company) ten men from each company shot five shots each at 200, 400, and 600 yards, and each company made 118 points. The ties were shot off at 600 yards, one shot each man, when the companies again tied, making five points each. A third trial had a precisely similar result, but in the fourth Patshall proved the victor, making 5 points to Seisdon's 2.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY AND THE VOLUNTEERS.—The following report has come to me, the truth of which, in its main particular, I think I may guarantee. An active officer of one of the metropolitan volunteer regiments, at a great cost of time and labour, raised a working-man's corps, and was congratulated generally for his success; not, however, by the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex. He entirely disapproved of arming working men, especially as "the Colonel is a Radical." And to show his disapproval, and to punish the active officer aforesaid for his impertinence, the noble Lord Lieutenant has refused to grant the said officer a commission, although he was unanimously chosen by his corps. And there is no appeal, the Lord Lieutenant in such matters being entirely irresponsible, except to the Crown. Surely the Secretary for War, or the Commander-in-Chief, or the noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government (for whose special duty it is to check tyrannical Lord Lieutenants I know not), ought to look into this matter.—"The Lounger at the Clubs" in the *Illustrated Times*.

MR. COBDEN'S HEALTH.—Various painful reports have of late been promulgated respecting the condition of this gentleman's health. Our readers will therefore be much gratified to read the following extract from a letter written by Mr. Cobden:—"Midhurst, Nov. 22. Dear Doctor Maddock,—I am not so bad as the newspapers report; but, not being able to attend all the public meetings to which I am invited, people consider me very ill. But I am always liable to bronchial irritation from atmospheric changes, and am obliged to avoid cold and wet weather, and to keep as much as possible within doors after sunset. With these precautions I hope to avoid being banished this winter to a southern climate."

CORONATION OF THE GIPSY QUEEN.

A LOCAL paper, the *Kelso Chronicle*, gives an interesting account of one of the customs of this singular people:—The coronation of her Majesty Queen Esther Fan Blythe, which has been for a few weeks back a subject of much discussion at Kelso, took place on Tuesday week. There were two candidates in the field for the vacant honour. It was decided to settle the matter by election; but on the day fixed for that purpose no opposition appeared, and Esther was forthwith chosen Queen, and the coronation ceremony duly performed. The Royal proclamation which she had issued had the effect of calling together a goodly number of the tribe; but the weather became very unfavourable, and, no doubt, deterred many of the general public from witnessing the ceremony. On this interesting occasion Esther was attended by Princes and Princesses of the Royal blood—her brother, Prince Charles, and nephew of the same name and title, and two of the Princesses acted as querries to her Majesty, some of her Majesty's grandchildren also being present. The Queen, mounted upon her palfrey, proceeded to the Cross, where the ceremony of coronation was to be performed, the crown-bearer and crowner following behind. The procession having halted, the crowner stepped forward and placed the coronet upon her head, a Scotch thistle being a very prominent ornament upon it. The crowner, from a roll of parchment proclaimed that he having crowned her deceased father, King Charles, from his inherent right of crowner, and from the fact of the late King dying intestate, now placed the crown upon the head of Esther, and, with public proclamation at the Cross of her dominions, he proclaimed her Queen Esther Fan Blythe, "challenge who dare." On the termination of the Royal ceremony her loyal subjects with three times three cheers rent the air, a "A reign of long life and happiness to Queen Esther!" was the general cry. The Queen, in a short and pathetic speech, thanked her subjects for the high honour they had conferred upon her in choosing her to occupy the throne of her ancestors, and expressed the hope that during her reign they would conduct themselves quietly and live at peace with all men. Afterwards a congratulatory address was presented to her Majesty on her happy accession to the throne, and expressing a fervent wish that she might long worthily fulfil the duties of her Royal house. A supply of genuine "mountain dew" was handed round, and flowing bumpers quaffed to her Majesty's health and happiness. The procession being again formed, the Queen's piper, riding his "sprightly charger," his wife Elizabeth acting as groom in waiting, attended by a whole host of followers, proceeded through the villages, calling at the various inns and refreshing her attendants, her Majesty frequently recognising individuals of her acquaintance. After they had again returned to the Cross, the Queen, in a short speech, thanked her attendants and subjects for their attention, and, seated in the chair of state, proposed that "Lamed Jamie" and her Majesty, with her sister-in-law and Royal brother, should lead down the dance, which was done with spirit, but the slippery state of the green prevented the free use of the feet. After a while, however, the rain compelled them to retire under cover, where her Majesty held a levée, the Royal Princes and Princesses and retinue only being admitted.

MR. SEWARD.

SECOND only to Mr. Lincoln, the President, in official dignity, and surpassing him in personal importance as a politician, stands forth just now in the full glare of the world's eye Mr. Seward, the American Secretary of State. If it be the cue of the Federals to have a war with England, this is the man (see Engraving) who will have the chief voice in the Cabinet as to all the practical operations to follow. If, on the contrary, it is England, or, rather, certain influential parties among Englishmen, who try to originate a war, this is the man who will have, by his mingled tact and courage, courtesy and independence, to avert so terrible a calamity, which, while crippling England for many a year, might plunge the Americans into irretrievable ruin. We did not, therefore, need the recent correspondence between him and Lord Lyons to tell us how important a personage he is or how much reason we have to rightly appreciate him. But it must be owned that the diplomatic passage of arms, which has so much amused us all, has given increased zeal to our desire to know who and what Mr. Seward was before the war brought him into such marked prominence. Even those members of the English press who have been least generous, not to say the least just, in their treatment of America, seem to feel that Mr. Seward spoke for his country with a dignity, and force, and success, that were by no means equally conspicuous on our side of the question. Let, then, briefly run over the leading incidents of his career.

Mr. Seward was born in Orange county, in the State of New York, on May 16, 1801, and is consequently in his sixty-first year. He was educated at Union College in that State, and took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1820 and of Master of Arts in 1824. At the age of twenty-one he established himself at Auburn in the profession of the law, and soon acquired a lucrative and extending practice. Early in his public and professional life he travelled in the Southern Slave States, and is supposed to have formed at that time the opinions and principles hostile to slavery to which he has since given such eloquent and oft-repeated expression. To a greater degree than is known of any other American statesman—Mr. Sumner, perhaps, excepted—the object of his life seems to have been to counteract the aggrandisement and prevent the extension of that "peculiar institution." Upon other questions Mr. Seward's policy may be described as humanitarian. He is in favour of the education of the people, of the amelioration of the laws, and of the development of the material resources of the United States. In these respects he has ever been among the foremost of American statesmen, and may justly claim the praise bestowed upon him by his friends, and scarcely denied by his opponents, of being "the best and clearest head in America." In 1830 he had acquired such influence and character that he was elected a member of the Senate of the State of New York, then, like the House of Lords in this country, the highest judicial tribunal of the State, as well as a legislative body. In 1834, at the close of his term of four years, he was nominated a candidate for the governorship of the State of New York, in opposition to Mr. William L. Marcy, the then Governor, and, later, the distinguished Secretary of State of the Central Government of the United States. On this occasion Mr. Seward was defeated by a majority of

nearly 10,000. In 1839, his party becoming bolder and stronger, he was triumphantly elected, in opposition to Mr. Marcy, the majority being greater than his previous minority. His peculiar principles and policy, especially with respect to the great and ubiquitous question of slavery, marked his administration, and came to be known throughout the country as "Sewardism." From having boldly asserted that there was a "higher law" than the law of the United States—the law of Nature and the Gospel—a law that condemned slavery—he laid himself open to much obloquy, and the political nickname of "Higher-law Seward" was applied to him by his opponents as a term of reproach. The principles which he then advocated have been ever since, and now are, the subject of vehement contest, and actually constitute the dividing line of parties in the United States between the Democrats and the Republicans.

It was during Mr. Seward's administration and under his direction that the authorities of New York refused to surrender Alexander M'Leod, once notorious in the Canadian rebellion, without a trial, under a threat of the British Government. In 1843 Mr. Seward retired voluntarily from the office of Governor, and devoted himself to his private affairs. But such a man, with so clear a head and so fluent a tongue, the ablest debater in America, could not long be spared from the strife of parties. The government of the State of New York, important as it was, was too narrow an arena for the full exercise of his abilities, and he aspired to rise to that wider sphere of Congress, where all the great minds of the Republic hope to distinguish themselves. Without having passed through the lower stratum of the House of Representatives he was in 1849 elected to the Senate of the United States for six years. He gave so much satisfaction that he was re-elected in 1855, and is now in the eleventh year of that office. In this place he refused, in 1850, to compromise the slavery question, the keystone to American politics. This refusal brought him into opposition not only to the Democratic party, but also to his own, then led by those eminent statesmen, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Fillmore. This division resulted later in the disorganisation of both of the old and traditional parties, and the organisation of two virtually new ones, directly on the policy of permitting or checking the further extension of slavery in the United States. We may add that until the war broke out the Democrats went with the South, but now both the Northern parties are united in the one great aim of a successful prosecution of the contest.

MR. SEWARD, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE.

CORONATION OF THE QUEEN OF THE GIPSIES.

THE ARISTOCRATIC CABMAN, WHO "NEVER HEARD OF A GENT WISHING TO RIDE IN A 'HANSOM' FOR SIXPENCE A MILE. THE THING CAN'T BE DONE."

THE CHIVALROUS CABMAN, WHO ALWAYS ACTS UPON THE PRINCIPLE THAT "NONE BUT THE BRAVE DESERVE THE FARE."

CAB LIFE IN LONDON.

We have heard so much of the "conduct" and "contortions" of the London cabman from those who are socially his enemies that one is interested in knowing what the "other side" would say, supposing poor cabby to have any friends to speak for him. We present to-day the opinions of an artist, expressed by the pencil and graver, which are, as will be noticed, of a somewhat mingled character, like the yarn of life generally; and, accompanying his sketches, we give a very warm and decided eulogy from a literary gentleman who has evidently been on excellent terms with his hero. He says of cabby, with a contemptuous disregard of all our ordinary commonplace notions—"He sits on his box as proud as any Queen's coachman. With a flower in his button-hole, and a smile of contempt upon his cheek, he holds in his hand a small book, which he is studying with a zeal worthy of an honest critic. Is it a song-book? No. It is 'Mogg's 50,000 Cab-fares.' But see, a lady calls him. How readily he answers the call, as though he were a barrister being called to the Bar. He has no necessity to put on his gloves, for they are on his hands. Now, observe how well he already applies the knowledge that, in his idle moments, he has been acquiring! When asked his fare, there is no hesitation in his voice or manner. He knows the precise sum, and, in his honesty, that has been well tried at other places than the Old Bailey, he asks for no more, as he wishes for no more. He lifts up the children as tenderly as if they were his own. He hands in the birdcage, also, and the large bundle, and the baby, and the bag of biscuits; and drives off at a pace not sufficient to frighten the child, nor to send the mother to sleep, but ambles happily along, as if the church was before him, and his young bride was inside. He does not go out of his way to increase the fare. He knows but one path, the straight path of duty, and for no inducement will he travel upon any other. An open drain to him is not a trap to catch an extra sixpence. A sewer has no charms for him, as his innate sense of right would scorn to make that fare which was foul as much as it would shrink from making the foul fare. He is always well supplied with change; and supposing he is deficient of fourpence, he would sooner forego the difference himself than go into the public-house to get it. He never fights, for he holds the checkstring over his temper so tightly as to prevent him using his hands in any other way than to guide his passions and to pull himself up suddenly when he finds they are likely to run away with him. On the same principle he never drinks. Tempt him with cakes, if you will; offer him a glass of milk, if you like. You may bribe him with an orange, perhaps; but as for drink in any other form save water, or ginger-beer, he would turn from it as he would from a sovereign that had been given him by mistake for a shilling; he is consequently free from all danger of knocking his cab against a lamp-post, or of mistaking the pavement for the middle of the road. Neither is he

THE SOCIAL CABMAN, WHO DOESN'T MIND GOING TWO OR THREE MILES OUT OF HIS WAY TO OBLIGE A FRIEND, EVEN WHEN HIS FARE IS IN A HURRY TO CATCH THE TRAIN.

THE PARTICULARLY POLITE CABMAN, WHO LEAVES THE FARE "ENTIRELY TO HER LADYSHIP'S HONOUR."

STRIKING ATTITUDE OF A BRITISH CABMAN WHEN TOLD BY A FRIEND "THOU HAST OVERCHARGED ME."

guilty of that foolish exhibition of extra over-politeness that a cabman puts on when he wishes to disguise the filthy state he is in—which over-politeness, from the fact of its rarity, is the very first thing to betray him. However, he has a feeling of tender pity for the poor wretched man who does drink; it moves him to compassion to see a fellow-creature putting his lips to that which destroys him, kissing the poisonous glass, as it seems to him, with the the kiss of death. So, in his compassion, he only takes him in his cab by way of protection. He never, by any accident, takes advantage of his helplessness; no drunken man would be a sixpence the poorer for being intrusted to his care. There is no necessity to take his number. It is a moral charge, for which he is well repaid, by quietly slipping a few temperance tracts into the drunken man's hat, or pocket, previous to lifting him into his hall passage. It is the same if he drives a hansom. He doesn't presume upon that position. He charges no more than if he was in front instead of behind a cab. He does not acknowledge the broad line of demarkation which these aristocrats of the whip draw between the four-wheeled cabs and those that run only upon two. So, if he is asked to drive to a spot beyond the limits of civilisation (for these great kings are in the habitual conceit of declaring the 'boundary of civilisation' to be 'the last cab-stand where it is possible to get a hansom'), he does not object to take them, but tells them to 'jump in' as cheerfully as if he were going to drive them up and down St. James's-street all day long. He refrains from giving himself all the lordly airs and whiskers that hansom cabmen generally indulge in; and it was a great question whether, when a kind Legislature really reduced the fare to sixpence a mile, he would not, in his sensitive morality, take a fare like that sooner than refuse it. To a policeman he behaves more like a chivalrous friend than a rancorous enemy. He respects him, calls him 'Sir,' touches his hat with his finger when spoken to, and would no more think of what is vulgarly called 'chaffing' him than he would of feeding his spirited steed upon the same dry material. His cab is always kept clean; not a broken window to be found in it; the window-frames never creak, or refuse to act; the door does not fly open at unexpected moments; the cushions are something better than an old mattress; and you will find clean straw in it regularly every day. Cleanliness is his weakness; and, when not studying 'Mogg's Fares,' you will always see him washing or rubbing, brushing and scrubbing away at the brasswork, or something belonging to his cab. And in his own appearance he is equally particular; and he keeps a silk umberella to hold over a lady when it happens to be raining. In all money transactions the scales in the Bank of England are not more true than he is. Leave your pocket-book behind you, you need not be in the least alarmed, even though you havn't got the numbers of the bank-notes with which its fat sides are lined. He is so honest that if he took a threepenny-bit more than his fare he would send it the following day as 'conscience-money' to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or else drop it into the plate at the next charity sermon. England has every reason to be proud of such a cabman, for he is a man who would adorn any railway-station, and be an honour to any rank in society."

By the time cabby has read to the end of this—if, indeed, his modesty will allow him to go through it—he may perhaps begin to smell a rat, and look somewhat suspiciously at his eloquent partisan. But he is wrong. The author is his friend; and so cabby would find if he would only realise a very moderate part of the ideal here described. Let him, then, take the lesson as it is intended, and not mind the pungent sarcasm through which the instruction is given.

Sporting News.

THE SHREWSBURY CUP was run for on Thursday week. The winner of the Liverpool Autumn Cup, Petra, came in first, Russley second, and Herne third.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—On Thursday week his Royal Highness was out with the harriers. On the following day the Cambridgeshire hounds met at Shelford, by Colonel Wale's house, where a field of about 200 had assembled. There was a good run of nearly two hours from Shelford to Whitwell Farm, Coton, and back to Harston, when the fox got into a drain, as was discovered by the very evident token of his coat giving up a lot of its covering to a long pole, which unfortunately could only drive poor Reynard further in the drain, and so it ended in poor Press and his hounds being disappointed of a kill. The Prince was cut, and rode, as usual, very pluckily and judiciously. He was accompanied by Major-General the Hon. R. Bruce and Major Teesdale.

FOOT-RACE BETWEEN DEERFOOT AND BARKER.—A very large muster of spectators assembled in Mr. Baum's inclosed pedestrian-ground, Hackney-wick, on Monday afternoon, to witness the contest between Deerfoot and Samuel Barker, of Billingsgate, over a distance of ten miles, for a stake of £50, and the champion's cup. The ground was filled with spectators, and shortly after three o'clock the men appeared at the scratch, both seeming in fine fettle. At the word "Off!" they started away at a clipping pace, and a desperate struggle ensued up to within three quarters of a mile from home, when Barker broke down greatly distressed, and the Indian was left to finish by himself. Time 54 minutes 38 seconds.

Recreations.

THE leading incident of the week is the opening on Monday of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews's entertainment at HER MAJESTY'S CONCERT ROOM, where now every evening these artistes may be found "At Home" by that portion of her Majesty's subjects who seek for drawing-room amusements on a public platform. Mr. Mathews does not emulate Mr. Woodin or Mr. Love in the assumption of a number of characters, aided by changes of costume, and set off by similar theatrical accessories; but, without dispensing with costumes altogether, his performance resembles the monologue of the late Mr. Albert Smith, and consists, like his, of personal reminiscences and adventures. He likewise introduces eccentric individualities and songs, which serve to relieve the narrative and are both interesting and amusing. There is, however, one distinctive feature which will make the entertainment exceedingly popular. It is accompanied with scenery painted from Mr. Mathews's own sketches taken on the spot when travelling with Lord and Lady Blessington in Italy, and which testify to an amount of skill which must be remembered in any correct estimate of Mr. Mathews's varied accomplishments. The public will assuredly patronise Mr. Mathews in his new speculation. He repeats, however, his determination not to forsake the stage, and again states that he has adopted this experiment simply as a change of recreation, and not as a substitute for the art to which he has devoted his life. Whether as actor or lecturer, Mr. Charles Mathews will be acceptable to refined audiences.

Mr. Ryder is rising in reputation. His Iago gave him a great lift; and now he has added the part of Falstaff to his repertoire. "The Merry Wives of Windsor" has accordingly been performed throughout the week, on alternate nights with "Othello." The controversy yet continues on the latter performance. The latest discovery concerning this tragedy has been made by the *Athenæum*. That journal has discovered, from a speech of Desdemona, that the action of the third act takes place on a Sunday. This, in connection with Mr. Henry Ottley's statement that, according to the original text, the action is for the most part in the open air, suggests the recommendation that the parties concerned in the dialogue should meet on going to and from church. A procession of the congregation would afford occasion for picturesque grouping. It is certainly curious that this fact—for a fact it is—of the business of this act taking place on Sunday has never hitherto been detected by the commentators. The discovery is due to the acumen of the dramatic critic of the leading theatrical journal, and reflects on him more than ordinary credit.

The new pieces at the ROYALTY are entitled "All in the Dark" and "A Thumping Legacy." The former is a purposely-incomprehensible complication, not intended for the critic, but for the spectator only; and the latter is too well known to justify remark. Mdme. Albina di Rhona appeared in her ballet-farce of "Smack for Smack," in addition to the "Camelia." Mr. Worboys again justified his reputation as a low comedian, in the character of an amorous grocer, who is the cause of the complexity in the first piece.

A change has taken place in the cast of "The Octoroon." The part of Salem Scudder is surrendered by the author to Mr. Delmon Grace, who was, in fact, originally intended for its representative. He is an American actor, with a peculiar talent for portraying the genuine Yankee; and has added so many traits to the character, and been so well received, that it is expected that he will retain it during the run of the drama.

We are glad to find that the reparations of St. Martin's Hall are in progress. It is announced that it will shortly open with cheap monster-concert entertainments; and it is promised that the management shall be one of more than ordinary mark. We shall see; and also be happy to record that these pledges are redeemed.

On Saturday Mr. Phelps performed, for the first time in London, the character of Richard III., according to Cibber's version of the tragedy.

ASTLEY'S THEATRE will open on Monday next with "The Colleen Bawn," which will be produced as a grand spectacle, under the superintendence of Mr. Boucicault himself. A new troupe of equestrians is also promised, of whose capabilities report speaks highly.

The retreat of Mr. Brooke from Australia has caused a vacuum in Melbourne which it is found not easy to supply. A correspondent of a theatrical journal states that Mr. Anderson would do well to revisit the colony. By Mr. Anderson playing parts not acted by Mr. Brooke, he thinks that money would be made both by author and manager. Mr. Anderson, we dare say, will not be slow in taking the hint. Mr. Charles Young has already arrived at Melbourne, and been remarkably successful.

To return to our home recreations. At the Middleton Hall, Islington, Mr. Maclagan's entertainment, which has already been received with great applause, will be repeated to-night. It is entitled "The Artist at Home; or, the Musical Age;" and consists of clever imitations of Mr. Sims Reeves and others, and also of some extraordinary violin-playing, flute-playing, eccentric dancing, and other fantastic inventions which abound with humour and are well calculated for popularity.

M. Kossuth, according to the *Tricats Gazette*, is seriously ill; it is said that he exhibits alarming consumptive symptoms.

Law and Police.

THE DRURY-COURT MURDER.—Richard Reeve, aged eighteen, was indicted at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, for the wilful murder of Mary Anne Reeve, in Drury-court, on the 15th inst. Mr. Baron Bramwell, in summing up, told the jury that there was no evidence on which they could acquit the prisoner on the ground of insanity. Unhappily he had a drunken father, who was subject to delirium tremens, but that had no bearing on the question of insanity. The jury retired at half-past twelve, and returned at a quarter to one with a verdict of "Guilty," but with a strong recommendation to mercy on the ground of his youth and the bad example which had been set him by Mr. Baron Bramwell then sentenced him to death, without any comment, and without the usual concluding words, "May the Lord have mercy on your soul."

CHARGE OF LUNACY IN HIGH LIFE.—An investigation into the alleged lunacy of William Frederick Windham, Esq., was commenced yesterday week before the Lords Justices. The alleged lunatic is a young gentleman of vast property, the next heir to which is his uncle, Major-General Charles Ashe Windham, who, in conjunction with other relatives, originated the petition for the inquiry. In support of the petition affidavits were read alleging a variety of harum-scarum boyish pranks on the part of Mr. Windham. A great many particulars respecting the extravagant life he led in town were also entered into, and great stress was laid upon the marriage which he had contracted. The facts respecting this unfortunate alliance are, it is stated, as follows:—Mr. Windham, upon coming into his immense fortune, was unhappily led into society by no means fit for a gentleman of his station of life. Among his acquaintance was a lady named Agnes Ann Rogers, better known by the name of Agnes Willoughby, whom he accidentally saw riding in Hyde Park. Of this lady, who is possessed of considerable personal attractions, Mr. Windham became deeply enamoured, and made her a proposal of marriage, which, however, she at first refused. This may be accounted for by the fact that she was already in possession of £200*l* a year, which she must necessarily give up on her marriage. A solicitor was consulted, and the lady eventually consented to marry Windham, on condition that £800 per annum should be at once settled upon her for her separate use, and that her husband, on attaining twenty-eight years of age, should increase this sum to £1500. This was done, and the marriage was duly solemnised. As might be expected, it turned out a most unhappy one, and at the expiration of about a month they parted; not, however, before the fair bride had been presented by her husband with jewellery to the value of £14,000. She returned in a short time, and has resided with him at intervals until a few days ago, when she again left him. These circumstances are now alleged against Mr. Windham as tending to show that he is of unsound mind, and incapable of conducting his own affairs. To rebut these charges a mass of medical testimony was brought forward, tending to show that Mr. Windham had conducted his affairs in a manner which precluded all idea of insanity, and that his puerile freaks and expensive habits were only what might be expected from a young gentleman whose education had been neglected, and who had a large sum of money at his command. It was affirmed that, with the exception of the purchase of jewels for his wife, he had invariably acted in a way which clearly showed that he knew the value of money, and was not too ready to part with it. The allegations that he neglected personal cleanliness and that he was guilty of cruelty to animals met with a flat contradiction. Several gentlemen who visited him at Felbrigg Hall in September last, asserted that he then behaved in a perfectly rational manner, and exhibited no sign whatever of aberration of intellect. The Lords Justices after hearing the affidavits on either side, considered that a primâ facie case had been made out, and allowed the prayer of the petition. A commission of lunacy will therefore be issued and a jury impannelled to try the question.

CAPTURE OF A RUNAWAY CLERK FROM NEW ZEALAND.—A young man of gentlemanly appearance, named William Joseph Brutton, was taken before the borough magistrates of Southampton on Monday under the following circumstances:—Brutton has been engaged for the last three or four years as a clerk at the Union Australian Bank, Otago, New Zealand, whence he absconded in the month of August with nearly £1500. He made his way to Melbourne, and there took a passage in the ship Roxburgh Castle for England. This vessel arrived off Cowes last Saturday evening, on her way up Channel for London, and the prisoner landed at that port with two or three other passengers. Brutton crossed over to Southampton, where he came under the vigilant eye of Verge, a detective policeman in the Southampton borough police force, who recognised him as the one answering to the description he had of the runaway. Verge consequently took him into custody, and on searching him about £300 was found upon his person. The prisoner, who acknowledged his guilt, was remanded till the arrival of an officer from London, who had gone to Deal to await the arrival of the Roxburgh Castle at that place.

DISCOVERY OF A GANG OF COINERS.—At the Worship-street Police Court, last Saturday, Henry Milford, recognised by the police as a well-known thief, and Emma Theobald and Jane Dyer, two well-dressed women of twenty-five, were charged at the instance of the authorities of the Mint. Mr. James Brennan, the

Mint officer, having received an intimation that the prisoner was actively engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit sixpences and fourpenny-pieces, selected inspectors Broad and Bryant, Sergeant Brennan, and two officers named Leather and Elliott, with whom he went the preceding afternoon to a house in the notorious Flower-and-Dean-street, Spitalfields, where he was told the business was carried on. The street entrance having been accidentally left open, the officers went quietly up to a back room on the second floor, the door of which they found secured. They at once forced it open with a blow from a sledge-hammer, and on getting inside found all three prisoners sitting together at a large fire, the man in his shirt sleeves, with a double mould in one hand and a pipkin in the other filled with metal, which he was returning to the fire. On catching sight of the police Milford flung the hot mould on the floor and tried to crush it to pieces, but the officers pushed him aside and picked up two moulds, one of them with a counterfeit piece in it just made, on seeing which the prisoner made such a determined effort to recover them that a desperate struggle ensued between him and two of the constables, and it was only with the greatest difficulty he could be overpowered and secured. The two women were equally active, for while this contest was going on Dyer swept a quantity of base coin from the table, and Theobald tried to fling a cup out of the room, but the cup fell before it reached the door, and forty more base coins were scattered on the floor, mixed with sand and water, in which they had been undergoing a scouring. The two women were then also secured, and on searching the place another sizable mould was discovered, with a number of other false coins in various stages of completion, with metal, files, plaster of Paris, and every implement necessary for coining, and many with indications about them which showed they had been very recently used. Milford said that they had not been long at the trade, but the police stated that he was well known to them, and the women they also believed had been before engaged in similar practices. The prisoners offered no defence, and Mr. Knox remanded them, that they might be committed for trial.

Murder of Two Boys by their Father in Dublin.—One of the most terrible domestic tragedies that has occurred in Dublin for years was enacted on Wednesday week at 25, Cumberland-street. The father had been a waiter in an hotel at Bray, but left his situation in September last, and since then has been unable to obtain employment, and consequently was brought to poverty, and had barely sufficient food to suffice for a day. After having sold the little property they possessed, it appears a quarrel arose between him and his sister-in-law about his shirt-collars, when he took the poker and rushed upon her, and inflicted a serious wound on her left temple. She ran from him and fled. His wife interposed, but he turned upon her, and most savagely attacked her, and knocked her with the poker on the head in several places and about her person. She succeeded in getting away. Rendered mad at being thwarted in his murderous attack on his sister-in-law and wife, he took up a knife, and, catching hold of the youngest child, a boy of two years, he inflicted a fearful gash across his throat, severing the head almost from the body; then seizing the oldest child, he cut his throat, but the wound did not cause instantaneous death. He now appeared to have become conscious of what he had done, and cried out in the most frantic and agonising manner for help, weeping bitterly. He was taken into custody, and did not offer the least resistance. The oldest child died shortly after being taken to the hospital. On the following day the coroner's inquest was held. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder," and the prisoner was committed for trial on the charge.

The Murder of a Gamekeeper.—Waller, the poacher, whose arrest we noticed last week, has since been examined and committed for trial on the charge of wilfully murdering Wm. Smith, gamekeeper.

Mr. Bright, M.P., and his Workmen.—On Friday week four carpet-weavers were brought before the Rochdale magistrates on a charge of intimidating some of the workpeople of Messrs. Bright, of Rochdale. From the statement of the counsel for the prosecution, the cause of disagreement between Messrs. Bright and their workpeople was one of wages. New machinery had been placed in the mill by which one-third more work could be performed without any additional labour on the part of the mill hands. The men, however, demanded a rise proportionate to the additional amount of production, and, on the demand being refused, some hands struck. Others remained at work, and these were threatened in three instances by the men who were "out." There were four prisoners, two of whom were sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment, and two to a month. Notice of appeal was given in each case.

The Debtors' Prisons.—The Registrars of the Court of Bankruptcy have finished their labours for the present at the metropolitan prisons. From Whitecross-street Prison thirty-three have been released by the Registrars, and about twenty-four from Horsemonger-lane Gaol, and some from the Queen's Prison. On Monday there were only 105 in Whitecross-street Prison, of which ninety were "sheriff's;" and in Horsemonger-lane Gaol only eighteen, and of that number six were County Court commitments.

A Man Loth to Leave Prison.—Mr. Registrar Winslow examined a man on Thursday week in the Queen's Prison who had been a prisoner for fifty years. The examination was made under the new Bankruptcy Act. The debtor, William Miller, was arrested on the 3rd of September, 1814. He said he never owed anybody anything; he had no debt, no creditor—there were no proceedings in court—only a man had arrested him, and that man, Cull, had been dead for some years. The poor old man said he was unwilling to be made a bankrupt; and it is doubtful whether the proceedings under the new Act, which are purposely made as light as possible, will be accepted by him to regain his liberty.

The Rev. Mr. Holloway was charged at the Criminal Court on Monday with robbery, found guilty, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

Accidents, Inquests, Etc.

Death from Artificial Flower-making.—On Monday an inquiry was held by Mr. G. S. Brent touching the death of Matilda Scheurer, a good-looking girl of nineteen, who died from poison imbibed into the system during her engagement in the manufacture of artificial flower leaves. Mrs. Louisa Scheurer, a widow, and mother to the deceased, deposed that on Thursday fortnight her daughter was seized with vomiting, and the refuse of the stomach was of a very greenish colour. The witness took her to the doctor on the following morning, who told her she was again suffering from the effects of poison. She had been ill several times before, complaining of pains in the stomach and sickness, for the last year and a half. She was engaged as an artificial florist in the warehouse of M. Bergerond, of Judd-street, Brunswick-square, and up to the time of her death she had been engaged in the leafmaking. She was in the greatest pain until she became insensible, when death put an end to her sufferings. Mr. Paul, surgeon, said he had attended the deceased four times within eighteen months while suffering from the same causes. He had made a post-mortem examination, and found that the lungs gave evidence of the presence of arsenite of copper, the liver being highly impregnated, as also the mesenteric glands. The cause of death was acute inflammation of the mucuous membrane of the stomach, produced by the inhalation of the arsenite of copper. A sister of the deceased had died under similar circumstances. Mr. Bergerond said he employed ninety-eight girls in his establishment, and for their protection he had suggested the wearing of masks, but it was objected to by them as producing excessive heat. They, however, wore muslin over their mouths. It was stated by a juror that the arsenite of copper in such manufactures was prohibited in France, as injurious to workpeople. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died accidentally, from the effects of mortal disease in her stomach and other organs, occasioned by arsenite of copper used in her employment.

Murder near Carlisle.—Late on the night of Thursday week, or early on the following morning, a dreadful murder was committed at a level crossing on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, about a mile and a half from Carlisle. The unfortunate victim was an old woman named Jane Emmerson, seventy-two years of age, who acted as gatekeeper, and lived in a little cottage a few yards from the line. Deceased's husband formerly held the situation, and during a long illness prior to his death his wife had performed the duty so carefully and satisfactorily that upon his death the company retained the widow in their service. Her only companions were a married daughter and two children; but at the beginning of last week the daughter had gone to Liverpool, accompanied by her two children, and the poor old woman was left alone in the cottage. It was her duty every night, after the last train had passed, at half-past ten o'clock, to close the gates across the line and take into the house two lamps which hung on each side of the railway, and between this time and four in the morning, when she had to open the gates for the first train, she had nothing further to do on the line. At half-past six in the morning she was found by a servant of the company murdered beside the line, within a few yards of the cottage porch. Her face was covered with blood, one eye had been driven in with a sharp instrument, the skull was fractured, and there were several cuts on the face, one of which had apparently been inflicted by a stone. The body was warm, and both lamps were found near. The garden gate was open, and in front of the window was found a "hedge-slasher," an instrument with a wooden handle, about four feet long, which the old woman was in the habit of taking with her as a kind of life-preserver. The blade was covered with blood, hair, stone-dust, and here and there a small piece of glass. The window had been broken in three places, and this appeared to have been done with the slasher. The door had been burst open by a kick, and there was also the mark of a pickaxe upon it. A pickaxe which had been usually kept in the garden was found under a bed in the room. The drawers had been broken open, and it is supposed that the old woman's wealth—25s. for a quarter's rent, and between £5 and £10 saved to defray her own funeral expenses—had been abstracted. The inquest was opened on Saturday last. After identifying the body and hearing the evidence as to the finding the inquiry was adjourned. The police are on the alert to discover the murderer.

Another Murder by a Soldier has been committed at Aldershott, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. Sergeant Dixon and Corporal Campbell, of the 78th Highlanders, were marking in a private room the names of the absentees from the roll of the company, when Private Jackson, of the same regiment, took his rifle from the rack and fired at the sergeant. The rifle-bullet passed through the bodies of both sergeant and corporal. The former fell dead on the spot, but a strong hope is expressed that the corporal will recover. Both the sergeant and the murderer were Englishmen. The former belonged to Gloucester, the latter to Barnard Castle. The sergeant was highly respected in his regiment, but the private appears to be a most unmitigated blackguard. His character was well known in the regiment, and his coolness and impudence after the murder were most revolting. The Coroner's inquest on the body of Sergeant Dixon took place on Monday. The evidence was conclusive as to the prisoner's guilt. It appeared that the ruffian entertained some feeling of illwill towards the deceased, and that he predicted that other non-commissioned officers would share his fate. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder," and made an addendum expressing their conviction that prompt measures ought to be adopted by the military authorities to prevent, as far as may be possible, the repetition of these diabolical crimes. The Coroner then said that in a case of murder by a soldier twelve months ago the jury had made a similar recommendation which he had forwarded to the Duke of Cambridge, but, beyond an acknowledgment of its receipt, nothing had been done.

Fatal Accidents to Three Children.—Inquests were held last week before Mr. Brent, the deputy coroner for West Middlesex, on the bodies of two children who met with fatal accidents. The first case was that of Frances Louisa Barrett, aged sixteen months, the daughter of a bricklayer residing at 57, Princess-street, Edgware-road, who was accidentally scalded to death in a frightful manner on the 11th inst. The second case was touching the accidental suffocation in bed, by means of the bedclothes, of Francis Gladden, aged seven months, the infant son of a shoemaker residing at 3, Charles-street, Lisson-grove, which took place on the 14th instant. Verdicts in each case "Accidental death." Another inquest was held on the body of an illegitimate infant, the daughter of Mary Martin, of 6, Seymour-place. The evidence adduced went to show that while the mother was asleep in bed the deceased by some very singular means must have fallen from her arms into a large handbasin of water which was placed on a chair by the bedside, as when the mother awoke she was startled at the sight of the dead body of the infant (thirteen weeks old) in the basin. The medical evidence proved that the death was occasioned by suffocation from drowning, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental drowning."

Two Men Crushed to Death.—Two men met a shocking death at Ludlow, Salop, on Saturday last. They were engaged in constructing sewage-works, when the sides of the pit which they had dug gave way, and crushed them to death.

Terrible Conflagration at Chester.—On Monday the Queen Railway Hotel, Chester, a magnificent building opened last summer, was to a great extent destroyed by fire. The catastrophe originated from an overheated flue in the kitchen. The Mayor, the magistrates, and the militia were all quickly on the spot with the Chester fire-engines. The Birkenhead and Crewe engines were telegraphed for, and soon arrived. The Saltney engines were also present in good time. Captain Humberston, M.P., heading a small body of volunteers, supported the police, and every effort was made to protect the property. There was just time to save the plate and a large part of the furniture. At one period the railway station itself, which cost above a quarter of a million, was deemed in danger. The interior of the original part of the hotel is destroyed, but the large new wing is saved.

Frightful Catastrophe in Edinburgh.—One of the most calamitous and heartrending occurrences which it has ever been our duty to record took place a few minutes after one o'clock on Sunday morning in the sudden fall of a densely-populated "land," or tenement of dwelling-houses, in the lower division of the High-street, Edinburgh, which resulted, so far as has yet been ascertained, in the death of about thirty persons, and the injury, more or less severe, of thirteen others. The tenement was situated at the north side of the street, between Bailie Fyfe's-close on the west, and Paisley's-close on the east, and was joined at the back (on the east side) by the gable end of another "land" which extended down Paisley's-close. The ground floor, fronting the High-street, was occupied by the shops of Mr. Cairns, grocer, No. 99; and Messrs. Brown and Co., victual-dealers, No. 103; while Mr. Moir, ironmonger, and Mr. M'Cluskie, shoe-merchant, occupied the first floor. The remainder of the tenement, which consisted of six stories at the front and seven at the back, including attics, was occupied as dwelling-houses by working men and their families, many of them weekly tanants of the poorest class. Altogether, it is believed that the building contained about twenty-five householders, many of whom kept lodgers, and that the total number of inmates was not less than eighty or ninety. The great majority of these persons, including nearly all the older people and the children, had retired to rest; but a number of the younger men and women, fortunately for them, had not been housed for the night at the hour when the disaster occurred, and so escaped.

A Murder was perpetrated on the Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway a few days ago. The victim, Thomas Hughes, was a gate watchman in the employ of the company. After the murder his body was placed upon the line manifestly with the intention that the death of the unfortunate man should be attributed to a railway accident. A stepson of the deceased has been arrested on suspicion.

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WM. THOS. LINFORD, Secretary.

15, Moorgate-street, Nov. 1, 1861.

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Printed and published for the Proprietors by EBENEZER FARRINGTON, of 4, Farringdon-street, in the parish of St. Sepulchre, in the city of London.—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861.